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DENMARK DKR. 40.00
GREECE DRA. 750.00
HOLLAND DFL. 8.50
SPAIN PTAS. 590.00

January 1994

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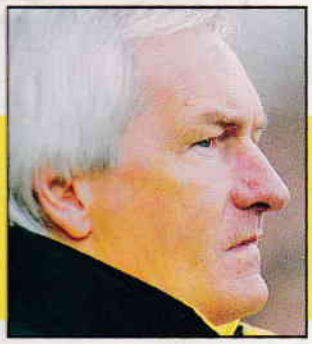

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Latest international results, tables and line-ups

VIVA LAS VEGAS!

Special Report on the eve of the World Cup's biggest gamble - the draw for USA' 94

Diego MARADONA

WORLD SOCCER

Diego Maradona, back in shape, back in the Argentina side and heading for the World Cup finals.

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EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

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Published by
ipcmagazines
Distributed IPC Marketforce

SUBSCRIPTION
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Lightweight bill in Vegas

BY PAUL GARDNER

What are we doing in Las Vegas? You'll have to ask FIFA that one — it was their idea to have the draw here.

Maybe they think of it as typically American, all that brash, brassy noise and the trillions of volts-worth of flashy neon lighting. Europeans do tend to think of the US like that.

Las Vegas is not typical, of course, but then where is typical in this continent? It's not much of a soccer town either.

They are unlikely to honour Pele or Maradona here, not in this town that numbers such as Bugsy Siegel, Lucky Luciano and Meyer Lansky among its founding fathers.

Why would they know about soccer in a town that was built in the middle of the desert? It's no secret, of course, that Las Vegas is a creature born of man's insatiable desire to gamble. Lost Wages, they call it, this city that lives on the money gleaned from losers.

Even FIFA have succumbed to its attraction. The idea was to have the draw at the most famous of the town's fantasy hotels, Caesars Palace — with its Appian Way shopping area and its Circus Maximus and its Michelangelo's David (no, it's not the real thing, but nothing is real here).

There was even talk that the World Cup draw would move up from the antiquated business of drawing balls out of pots, into some sort of dazzling electronic display where the teams would be selected by pulling on slot-machine handles.

Not going to happen, apparently: "I don't think you're gonna see slot machines," said a World Cup spokesperson.

Tradition will rule, the coloured balls will be pulled out of the pots by FIFA secretary-general Sepp Blatter, and there will be more people than ever on hand to see him do it.

But believe it or not, Caesars Palace — the fabled home to so many major sporting events such as boxing and tennis and ice hockey — is not big enough for the draw.

They've had to move it to the Las Vegas Convention Centre to accommodate the expected audience of 3,500.

The organisers expect about 1,200 journalists from all over the world — but only 500 of them will be allowed into the convention center.

The other 700 can watch on closed-circuit TV at the nearby Press Centre.

So who gets those other 3000 seats? "There are the various national team delegations from all over the world, the World Cup organising people, various officials from the host committees and from United States Soccer, government officials, tour operators, licensees, sponsors and marketing partners," said the spokesman. "And invited guests." Invited guests? There are THREE THOUSAND of them! And many of them will be paying $150 a ticket to get in.

Of course, they don't just get the World Cup draw — that would last only about 10 minutes.

They get a full 90-minute spectacular. Dancing girls and bands and show-biz personalities.

An all-stops-out, no-expense-spared entertainment put on by the World Cup organising committee's entertainment division.

Well, that's what it's supposed to be.

The entertainment division has failed pretty badly in the past to live up to its own billing.

For the qualifying round draw in New York in 1991, we got Barbara Eden as the "superstar" to host the show.

Most people didn't know who she was, and she completed the embarrassment by mispronouncing the name of FIFA president Joao Havelange. It came out as Havligang.

In Detroit this past summer, the Department fell flat again when they were supposed to come up with something special for the FIFA delegates, and produced nothing more than a regular theatre show. FIFA were not amused.

Shortly afterwards, Wayne Baruch, the head of the department, lost his job. It can't be said that things look much better this time around.

Anyone waiting for a genuine, top-notch American superstar will wait in vain.

In 1990 the Italians came up with Luciano Pavarotti and Sophia Loren.

By those standards, the Las Vegas bill is not wildly impressive.

Top of the pots

The burden of having to worry about the political problems that might have been created by North Korea, Iraq, and Iran, and the hooliganism of the English fans has been lifted.

All four countries were considerate enough to get themselves eliminated. The World Cup '94 organisers can now get on with the draw, with only soccer considerations in mind.

The idea is to divide the 24 teams into six groups of four — and to ensure as far as possible that the groups are of approximately equal strength. Before

Star guest . . . Sophia Loren at the 1990 draw.

More changes on the way

The 1994 World Cup already is breaking new ground with the first indoor game, at the Detroit Silverdome.

But there could be more changes in the traditional way of doing things.

During FIFA meetings in Las Vegas, the following ideas will be voted on:

● The award, during first round play, of three points for a win instead of two. Proponents claim it has led to a more positive approach.

● Three substitutes instead of two. Possibly prompted by the threat of very hot weather in Dallas and the east coast venues. The plan would be to allow the goalkeeper to be substituted at any time (but only with another keeper), thus allowing the coach more scope to use the other two subs for tactical purposes.

● Yellow cards. Nobody was happy with what happened in Italy in 1990, where Argentina arrived at the final game with four key starters suspended.

In that tournament, two yellow cards meant that the player had to sit out the next game.

Since 1990, FIFA have quietly modified the regulation. In the 1993 U-20 and U-17 World Cups, a player's yellow-card record was wiped clean after the first round.

Such a regulation would have allowed both Caniggia (right) and Batista to play in the 1990 final, as their first yellows had been received in the first round.

It is likely that the modified regulation will be used in the United States.

And it is likely that it will be needed. For FIFA are determined to clamp down on the time-wasters, particularly those players who fake injuries.

Which means, in all probability, more yellow cards.

The new approach is this: if you're injured, you must go off the field for treatment. Unless you've a head injury, or you're bleeding.

If a player doesn't get up after an injury, the referee will not allow the trainer on the field; instead he will call on the stretcher bearers (or it may be one of those little electric golf carts) to take the player off the field.

Next comes the difficult bit: if the player leaps up and says he's all right again as the stretcher approaches, or if he wants to come back on as soon as he gets off the field, he'll get a yellow card. For simulation.

But how long does he have to stay off the field before returning without getting a yellow?

The other important decision concerns the kick-off times for the games.

So far, only three games have been allocated times.

On June 17, in Chicago, the official opening game will kick off at 15:00 local time.

Later the same day, the Dallas game will start at 18:30 local time.

The Final, in Pasadena on July 17, will kick off at 12:30 local time.

For all the other games, the organisers have a choice of three times: noon, 16:00, and 19:30 (East Coast time).

Which one is selected will depend on a compromise between the local venue and the requirements of European TV.

A 25th team

GERMANY'S Karl-Josef Assenmacher, criticised for his handling of the Holland v England World Cup qualifier, has been excluded from the short list of 30 referees and 25 linesmen selected for preliminary tests ahead of the World Cup finals.

The list will be whittled down to 22 referees and 22 linesmen for the finals.

REFEREES: F Baldas (Ita), M Diaz Vega (Spa), P Don (Eng), G Goethals (Bel), B Karlsson (Swe), H Krug (Ger), P Mikkelsen (Den), L Mottram (Sco), V Nikakis (Gre), P Pairetto (Ita), S Puhl (Hun), J Quiniou (Fra), K Rothlisberger (Swi), M Van der Ende (Hol), Jamal Al-Sharif (Syr), Ali Mohammed Bujsaim (UAE), Shin-Ichiro Obata (Jap), E Filippi (Uru), S Imperatore (Chi), F Lamolina (Arg), R Marsiglia (Bra), M Rezende (Bra), A Tejada (Peru), J Torres (Col), J-F Diramba (Gab), Neji Jouini (Tun), An-Yan Lim Kee Chong (Mau), A Angeles (US), R Badilla (CR), A Brizio Carter (Mex).

LINESMEN: C-J Christensen (Den), J Dolstra (Hol), M Everstig (Swe), A Iliev (Bul), V Ivanov (Rus), M Listkiewicz (Pol), S Marton (Hun), L Matthys (Bel), R Pearson (Eng), D Ramicone (Ita), T Yli-Karro (Fin), Yousif Al-Ghattan (Bah),Choi Hae-Il (NK), Mohammed Fanaei (Iran), Park Hae-Yong (SK), Paulo Alves (Bra), V Balderrama (Bol), E Taibi (Arg), V Zarate (Par), Abdel-Magid Hassan (Egy), El-Jilali Rharib (Mor), R Calix Garcia (Hon), D James (T&T), E Brazzale (Aus), G Dunster (Aus).

The luck of the draw?

NO HOST NATION, in the 64-year history of the World Cup, has ever failed to advance to the second round.

Even Switzerland got into the quarter-finals in 1954, as did Mexico in 1970 and 1986. Sweden, hosts in 1958, made it all the way to the final.

Right from the start, the hosts have two big advantages: playing at home, and automatic seeding.

But do they get even more help? A feeling — even a suspicion — has grown over the years that the draw always favours the host nation by placing it in a weak group.

Just how that could be done is never explained.

But the feeling that the hosts come off lightly is not easily dispelled. After all, say the believers, the enthusiasm and the excitement of the tournament would be badly dented if the home team went out after only three games.

Look below at the host team groups in the post-war tournaments . . . what do you think?

Teams and stage reached in post-war tournaments

Year & hosts	*Others in host's first round group*
1950 BRAZIL (2nd)	Yugoslavia, Switzerland, Mexico
1954 SWITZERLAND (QF)	England (QF), Italy, Belgium
1958 SWEDEN (2nd)	Wales (QF), Mexico, Hungary
1962 CHILE (3rd)	West Germany (QF), Italy, Switzerland
1966 ENGLAND (1st)	Uruguay (QF), France, Mexico
1970 MEXICO (QF)	USSR (QF), Belgium, El Salvador
1974 WEST GERMANY (1st)	East Germany (Rnd 2), Australia, Chile
1978 ARGENTINA (1st)	Italy (4th), Hungary, France
1982 SPAIN (Rnd 2)	N. Ireland (Rnd 2), Yugoslavia, Honduras
1986 MEXICO (QF)	Belgium (4th), Paraguay (Rnd 2), Iraq
1990 ITALY (3rd)	Czechoslovakia (QF), US, Austria

the draw is conducted, each team is rated and assigned to one of four categories. The top six teams, the "A" teams, are the seeded teams.

They, in effect, do not enter into the draw, but are assigned each to a different group, thus ensuring that they do not meet in the first round.

The seeded teams consist of the host country, plus five others chosen on the basis of performance in the past three World Cups.

In the Las Vegas draw, they are: the US, Germany, Argentina, Italy, Brazil, and Belgium.

The supposedly weakest teams, the "D" teams, make up another group of six: Saudi Arabia, Greece, Nigeria, Bolivia, Norway and Switzerland. The remaining 12 teams are divided into two groups of six, again on the basis of perceived strength: the "B" and "C" teams.

Once the seeded "A" teams have been assigned to head each group, the draw proceeds with each group being completed with a "B", "C" and "D" team.

The 1994 draw will contain one important departure from the traditional method.

In the past, the seeded countries have been assigned to head a group, and the location of that group has been established before the draw. In Las Vegas, this will be modified.

The location of three groups is already known: that headed by the US in Los Angeles, the German group in Chicago, the Italian group in New York/New Jersey.

But the other three groups, headed by Brazil, Argentina, and Belgium will be assigned to either Boston, Orlando or San Francisco after the draw is completed. This will allow the organisers to place teams — other than the seeds — in areas where they will have maximum support.

Thus should Ireland be drawn into the Brazil, Argentina or Belgium group, it is likely that the group will be allocated to Boston, where there is a large ethnic Irish population.

An arrangement that would clearly strengthen Ireland's chances, and so make a mockery of the importance of being a seeded team.

But an arrangement that does make commercial sense, and one that will help to create an exciting atmosphere at the games.

● Likely composition of the four pots:

Pot "A" (seeded teams): US, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, Belgium.

"B": Russia, Cameroon, Colombia, Holland, Spain, Republic of Ireland.

"C": Bulgaria, South Korea, Romania, Mexico, Sweden, Morocco.

"D": Norway, Switzerland, Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Nigeria.

Bora still smiling

Bora Milutinovic, the coach of the United States national team, is one of those lucky people who wear a permanent smile.

You have the feeling that even if his team went down 10-0 to the Faroe Islands, he would still be grinning merrily.

Maybe he has reason to be unconcerned.

His boss, the United States Soccer Federation president Alan Rothenberg is on record as saying that he doesn't care if Bora loses all his warm up games, if it helps a better performance by the team during the World Cup itself.

So Bora has been losing as many as he wins, and not getting too worried about it.

The overall record for the US in 1993 is an unimpressive 11 wins, 12 losses, and 11 ties.

What the statistics do not show is that there are, in reality, two US national teams.

There is the team that Bora puts on the field for most of his games.

These are players who are under full-time contract with the USSF, and who are based permanently at the Federation's training centre in Mission Viejo, California.

A mixture of veterans like Thomas Dooley, from the Bundesliga, Hugo Perez, and Fernando Clavijo with youngsters straight out of college like Cobi Jones, Joe-Max Moore, and Alexi Lalas.

And there is the team — the real team — who play when Bora can get all of the overseas players released by their clubs. The two teams have not by any means lived a Jekyll-and-Hyde existence: the youngsters have done their share of winning, the veterans have lost one or two.

But when Bora reclaims all the exiles, that is when he gets his best results.

Results that include wins over the Republic of Ireland, England and Portugal, and a draw with Italy.

OK, so all those games were home games, played in the United States.

But — more smiles from Bora — that's where they're playing the 1994 World Cup.

PAOLO THE MYSTERY MAN MAKES A MARK

Paolo Taveggia's arrival in the United States last July raised a lot of eyebrows and a lot of questions.

Why would the man who was the chief administrative officer at Milan give up one of the best jobs in international soccer to come to the United States to start his own sports consulting business?

The situation wasn't helped by the rumours that accompanied Taveggia's arrival.

He was said to be working on behalf of FIFA, who had sent him over to make sure that the Americans didn't make a mess of the World Cup.

And/or, he was working for Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi (right), making sure that if anything did happen in the United States, if a pro league did get going, then Berlusconi got in first with things like money-making TV rights.

The World Cup '94 people reacted with a tight-lipped statement that they knew nothing of Taveggia, and that he certainly wasn't in the country at their request.

"There were a lot of misunderstandings on my position," says Taveggia.

"Maybe people thought that someone was sending a spy. I am not a spy, I am a soccer lover.

"But I have grown up with soccer, and I know that if you work in the sport, you must work with, you must respect, the national Federation, and FIFA.

"I knew it was sensible to consult with FIFA before I left Italy. They told me they were happy for me to be in the United States. Sepp Blatter wrote me a personal letter, giving me his blessing.

"But I am working for myself, I am spending my own money. I get nothing from Berlusconi, though, of course, I can do work for him.

"And — yes, of course — Berlusconi has told me there is a job for me if I want to go back to Italy."

Taveggia was born in Milan in 1952 and grew up as an Internazionale fan. He played amateur soccer — a right-footed midfielder — and studied Economics at the University of Milan.

During his student years he developed a love-affair with the United States, visiting whenever possible, and studying English.

After two years working in a bank, Taveggia went to work for Berlusconi in 1977.

Berlusconi then owned a small private TV channel in Milan, and was trying to build up a national network — what eventually would become the formidable *Canale 5*.

Taveggia travelled throughout Italy, striking deals with other small local stations.

In 1980, Taveggia went to New York to negotiate for sports programmes that Berlusconi could show in Italy — the 1981 Super Bowl was one of them.

As an independent, upstart operator, Berlusconi was running into problems with the state television company *RAI*, who held a monopoly over Italian sports programming.

That monopoly was effectively broken in 1981 when Taveggia sealed a deal that allowed Berlusconi to show, live via satellite, the Copa de Oro games from Uruguay.

This was a tournament that featured Italy, and until then all the Italian national team games had automatically gone to *RAI*.

In March 1986, Berlusconi bought Milan, and Taveggia went to work there as the No. 1 director.

"I was lucky, I worked there for seven years, and they were the best seven years in the club's history — we won all the major titles."

In 1990, Taveggia was loaned by Berlusconi to the Italian World Cup organisers. "I was the supervisor of all the playing sites in the north of Italy, with particular responsibility for Milan."

So why the move to the United States?

"I have always wanted to come here. If I had had the money when I was young, I would have moved back in the 1970s.

"When I was with Milan, I had the idea that the club should increase its image outside Europe, especially in the United States.

"I convinced Berlusconi to let me bring the club here in 1989. Now, I have left my job and I am taking a gamble — well, it's not really a gamble, let's say it's an attempt to work for the future of soccer in the US.

"I have had discussions with the United States Soccer Federation, I can work as a consultant for them on the new professional league."

Since arriving in the US, Taveggia's most spectacular venture has been to move the Italian Super Cup from Italy, and have it played in Washington DC.

Evidently, it wasn't easy to persuade Torino and Milan to make the flight to steamy, summertime Washington for just one game.

"The Italian Federation was keen to do the game in the United States to help their image, and their merchandising plans. But I had to pay the clubs a lot of money," says Taveggia.

How much?

"They got $800,000 each."

Was that a successful operation?

"Yes it was. We got 25,000 spectators, I sold the television rights to 35 countries for about $800,000, and I did well with selling advertising boards at the stadium.

"I broke even on the event, but it was also important for me as a sort of political success.

"I had to show the Italians, and the soccer world, that I could achieve things on my own."

Taveggia, his wife and two young daughters are now living in Connecticut.

In addition to his consulting work, he expects to be employed by FIFA during the 1994 World Cup.

His visa allows him to live in the United States for five years, but he says that it is his intention to take up permanent residence.

PLAYERS UNDER CONTRACT TO THE USSF AT MISSION VIEJO

Goalkeepers: Tony Meola, Brad Friedel
Defenders: Jeff Agoos ,Desmond Armstrong, Marcelo Balboa, Paul Caligiuri, Fernando Clavijo, Alexi Lalas, Mike Lapper, Janusz Michallik, Hugo Perez
Midfielders: Mark Chung, Thomas Dooley, Chris Henderson, Cobi Jones, Dominic Kinnear, Joe-Max Moore, Brian Quinn, Mike Sorber
Forward: Peter Vermes

US PLAYERS OVERSEAS

Goalkeeper: Kasey Keller (Millwall, England)
Defenders: John Doyle (Leipzig, Germany), Cle Kooiman (Cruz Azul, Mexico)
Midfielders: Chad Deering (Schalke 04, Germany), John Harkes (Derby County, England), Tab Ramos (Betis, Spain), Peter Woodring (Hamburg, Germany)
Forwards: John Kerr & Bruce Murray (both Millwall, England), Ernie Stewart (Willem II, Holland), Roy Wegerle (Coventry City, England)

London lion . . . Murray.

League after league after league

On the pro league front, the buzz phrase is "single entity." A new concept.

Briefly: a single entity league is run by a central body who own all the players and quite possibly the stadiums, too.

They distribute the players among the clubs, trying to maintain equality of strength between the teams. They set the wage structure and do all the commercial deals and the sponsorship contracts.

Odd that the idea should surface in America, for it has unmistakable elements of Communism about it.

The central body (not yet called the Central Committee) is "one for all and all for one", clearly designed to eliminate the tiresome business of the individual clubs getting into competitive wars with each other — particularly on the matter of outbidding each other for players.

The proponents of the single entity idea insist that it is legal, and that it is the only way to go.

The antis believe that it will fall foul of America's stringent anti-trust and restraint-of-trade laws.

The United States Soccer Federation (USSF) are working feverishly on a plan for a pro league based on the single entity concept.

Under this plan — which calls for the construction of medium-sized soccer stadiums — the USSF would be the central body running the league.

The plan is to be presented to FIFA in Las Vegas at the time of the World Cup draw.

The new league — due to start operating in 1995 — would fill the hole left in 1984 when the old North American Soccer League, home of the New York Cosmos and the Tampa Bay Rowdies, collapsed.

Five years later the planning is still going on.

But this was never going to be easy, and anyway, nothing is straightforward in American soccer.

Consider the American Professional Soccer League. There are only seven clubs, three of them Canadian, but are the only organisation with any claim to being a national pro league (though really more semi-pro than pro).

This is an embarrassment to the USSF, who would probably not be at all sad if the APSL disappeared tomorrow.

But APSL show no signs of dropping dead, and are preparing their own plan for a future pro league.

Just to muddy the waters a bit more, the man who used to run the APSL, Bill Sage, was recently lured away . . . by the USSF, to work on their own pro league plan.

Which makes two pro league plans.

Not enough. This summer a Chicago businessman, Jim Paglia, burst upon the scene with his own version.

Another single-entity plan, but this was more in the American private-enterprise tradition.

The league would be run by a group of businessmen, headed by Paglia.

They would build 12 new grounds, each seating 20,000 people, at a total cost of around $300 million.

Plenty of pro league plans, then. But, as yet, no pro league.

THE END, *80 YEARS OF LIFE ON ARSENAL'S NORTH BANK.*

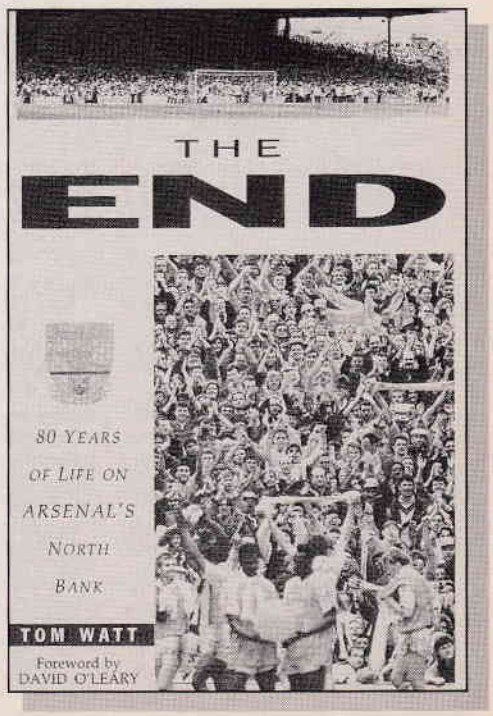
THE GAME in Britain will never be the same when the last of the terraces disappear from our top grounds and the fans are forced to cheer on their heroes from the safety of seats in the stands.

Despite the Hillsborough tragedy that forced the government to act and demand clubs obey the Taylor Report and make their stadium all-seater, most die-hard fans still prefer to stand on drafty terraces.

Tom Watt, famous as Lofty in the ***BBC TV EastEnders*** soap, has followed Arsenal for the past 25 years. Now he has written a fascinating and entertaining book: ***THE END, 80 YEARS OF LIFE ON ARSENAL'S NORTH BANK.***

It's a story that has never been told, or will be told again. Tom tells us why standing on a lump of concrete on the North Bank terraces of one of soccer's most famous clubs meant so much to him and generations of other supporters who've breathed passionate life into Highbury since the First World War.

Arsenal fan, or not, you'll love this often very funny book which deals with the experiences of people's lives . . . a history of what happened on one terrace yet can be related to us all.



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Prizes will be sent to the first six correct entries selected at random after the closing date.

QUESTION

In which year — 1913, 1923 or 1933 — did Arsenal move to their present Highbury Stadium?

● ***THE END*** — *80 YEARS OF LIFE ON ARSENAL'S NORTH BANK* — Published by Mainstream Publishing. Price £12.99.

Commentary

Keir Radnedge

The price of progress

SO, as we told you here last month, the face of European club football is about to change. Whether for better or worse will be a source of major controversy.

UEFA marked the end of a two-day gathering of its executive committee in Geneva by doing what one may only describe as killing off the European Champions Cup as we have known and loved it for nearly 40 years.

Since this has been the most prestigious, glamorous and lucrative event of its type in world football, UEFA president Lennart Johansson might be thought to be losing his marbles.

Nothing of the sort. But it takes a history lesson to unravel the truth.

The European Champions Cup was launched in the mid-1950s. It was the brainchild of Gabriel Hanot, a former French international and by then the editor of the famous Paris sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*. Hanot had been irritated at seeing an English newspaper proclaiming Wolverhampton Wanderers as club champions of Europe just because they had beaten Hungary's Honved and the Soviet Union's Moscow Spartak in friendly matches in England.

Hanot decided that *L'Equipe* should launch a competition to provide the real European club champions. He invited representatives of the leading teams in 20 countries to come to Paris and discuss the project.

They liked what they discussed, the newly-formed European federation was pressed into taking over the administration and the European Cup for Champion Clubs was under way. The first final, appropriately, was staged in Paris in 1956, with home favourites Reims losing a thrilling match 4-3 to the rising giants of Spain's Real Madrid.

The cup worked because it was simple. All Europe's countries entered their champions. That meant around 32 teams, which were easily and conveniently whittled down to 16 then eight then four then two — the annual finalists — by succeeding knock-out rounds. The paired clubs played each other home and away with the aggregate winners going forward.

Great reputations were extended beyond national boundaries.

Among the clubs that meant Real Madrid, Benfica of Portugal, Milan, Juventus and Internazionale of Italy, Ajax and Feyenoord of Holland, Anderlecht of Belgium, Manchester United and Liverpool of England.

But while knock-out football is dramatic and dynamic, the big clubs slowly realised that it was too risky.

Media magnate Silvio Berlusconi, for instance, having spent $30 million buying Milan and new players such as Ruud Gullit, Frank Rijkaard and Marco Van Basten, did not approve of the way his investment was placed at the mercy of the luck of the draw — and the prospect of being drawn in the first round against the champions of Spain or possibly even the champions of Iceland.

Under pressure from the clubs, UEFA worked out a seeding system based on clubs' results in Europe over the previous five years.

So far, so good. But not good enough. Under pressure from the clubs again, UEFA worked out a mini-league system for the central rounds of the Champions Cup which guaranteed participants not only six matches, but a multi-million-dollar share-out from the pool of TV and sponsor cash.

Still not good enough. After all, only eight teams out of 32 get through to this Champions League.

So, under pressure from the clubs, UEFA is taking yet another step towards the long-awaited European league. The holders and top seven seeded teams will go directly to the 16-team Champions League, which will be divided into four groups of four.

The remaining eight sides will come from eight preliminary round ties in August between teams ranked eight to 23 in the seeding list. All the remaining teams will be dumped in a 100-entry UEFA Cup.

Purists will complain that UEFA is selling out sporting integrity to keep the big clubs "onside" in both commercial and tele-visual terms. Football professionals will say a European league was inevitable.

The old Champions Cup will be consigned to history. That's the price of progress.

Past masters . . . Real Madrid celebrate their 1960 victory against Eintracht Frankfurt in Glasgow (above).

Internazionale's players enjoy a lap of honour after their 3-1 win over Real Madrid in the 1964 Final in Vienna (below).

Tommy Smith, Ian Callaghan and Phil Neal lead the Liverpool celebrations after their 3-1 victory over Borussia Monchengladbach in Rome in 1977 (bottom).

A question of time

THE WEEKEND before Christmas — what appalling timing! — world football's global village will take off for Las Vegas.

There, in the world's most famous or notorious or infamous, gambling capital (are they trying to tell us something about soccer in the United States?) the draw for the finals of the 1994 World Cup finals will take place.

It promises to be a remarkable event. Not to be repeated. The 1994 World Cup will be different — culturally, socially and administratively — and I have no problems about that. I have been confident all along that the organisation would be first-rate. But now my confidence is a little shaken.

Is this the tip of an iceberg? Let me explain. One of the major, realistic, concerns voiced about staging the World Cup finals in the US was the distance involved between the venues. To make the World Cup a national event meant no alternative to using coast-to-coast venues from New York to Los Angeles. But the organising experts bubbled over with assurances that logistic protection for the competing nations would be built in.

That is not true. Moreover, not only is it untrue, but the untruth is revealed in the latest schedules by a logistical blunder at the most sensitive stage of the finals. It is an error which could come back to haunt the Americans just when the tournament is approaching its climax. And the bitter words which are guaranteed worldwide circulation and worldwide headlines throughout the media will cast a sour note across the carnival.

What is this fearful howler? Simply, that the two semi-finals will apparently be staged on the same day.

Now, you might think this is an entirely fair arrangement. It means that both finalists will have the same amount of time in which to prepare; it means that both semi-final losers will approach the Third Place Play-off from equal distance.

But that ignores the fact that while one semi-final takes place at the Rosebowl in Pasadena, the other takes place in . . . Giants Stadium, New York. So, on Thursday, July 14, while the Pasadena winners relax around the pool, in the saunas and on the massage tables, the New York winners will either spend much of their day flying the breadth of the country, chasing the time zones or — having flown out late after their semi-final victory — they will spend all day battling fatigue, jet lag and all the rest.

It is patently unfair. It is unsporting. It raises a suspicion that the aura of administrative efficiency may be just that . . . an aura.

Imagine, for instance, that Argentina are the New York winners. Argentine football, as we have often seen, carries an enormous chip on its shoulder. The rest of the world, Argentina suspect, gangs up against them.

Just look back through World Cup history. That nasty little German referee sending off the paragon of sporting integrity, Antonio Rattin, at the 1966 World Cup; the horrid criticism ignorant foreigners heaped upon those gentle-as-lambs Estudiantes players in the late 1960s; the sheer uncomprehending mischief of people who prefer to recall the 1986 World Cup for Maradona's Hand of God goal rather than his wonderful solo strike a little later in the same match; and then all the conspiracies to rob Argentina of their crown at Italia '90, right down to the yellow-cards trick which deprived them of Claudio Caniggia for the Final — let alone the Mexican referee who dared send off two Argentinians and award the Germans a penalty (above).

How would this Argentina react to the twist of a New York semi-final? Easy. They would say it had been specially set up to put them at a disadvantage for the Final. They would threaten to boycott the Final. They would call for the Final to be delayed a day. They would stir up all sorts of mischief. And, to be frank, you couldn't blame them.

So let's hope that when FIFA's executive meets on the eve of the draw Joao Havelange and Co. will, along with approving three points for victory in the group games and relaxing the two-card suspension trick, tell the Ameri-cans to put their semi-final house in order.

After all, it's in FIFA's own interests. Its bevy of officials and committee men won't fancy losing a day in California, either.

They should be disappointed with that!

GRAHAM TAYLOR finally ran out of friends in the aftermath of World Cup failure. That, unfortunately, is what a manager is for: to suffer the slings and arrows of all the other guilty parties so that they can get away with it.

Taylor made mistakes. He chopped and changed before crucial matches in a way which, though it may have been intended to surprise the opposition, confused his own players as well.

But Taylor should not be allowed to swing for everyone. What about the FA which missed the chance of meaningful England reform when it had the chance, before the Premier League was launched?

Above all, what about the players? You know, the men out on the pitch entrusted with passing the ball one to another and sticking it in the net?

Maybe I've been reading the wrong newspapers, watching the wrong TV channels or listening to the wrong radio programmes, but I don't recall any England players standing up to be counted the way Neville Southall owned up for Wales.

Southall has done enough for Wales in the past to be permitted the odd slip now and again. Not sure I can say the same for some of England's finest. Still, criticising players is not allowed, is it? Poor dears.

Radio crusade

READERS abroad will not know this, but a *BBC* radio show has acquired cult status with English football fans on a Saturday.

***Six-O-Six*, on *Radio Five*, began as a general sport phone-in and was hijacked by Danny Baker into an irreverent, sometimes downright rude and theoretically actionable, fanzine of the airwaves.**

Much air time has been spent over the past few weeks discussing the peremptorily brutal treatment dished out by one division of the Turkish police towards Manchester United fans in Istanbul to attend the Champions Cup tie against Galatasaray.

Programme presenter David Mellor, former government Minister, became appropriately enraged and spearheaded protests to the Foreign Office and, through the Foreign Office, to the Turkish authorities.

It has become almost a moral crusade in which Mellor has been vociferously effective and the six fans held in custody in the *Midnight Express* prison have been released.

Hardly surprising. This is, after all, Mellor's political metier.

But there is a further dimension to all of this which English fans ignore at their literal peril.

Whatever you may read about the British police and standards of British justice and respect for human rights, they are way, way above those in many, many other countries which English clubs are likely to visit in the course of a European club season.

Why have English clubs and the FA tried to dissuade fans from following their teams abroad?

Precisely because foreign police, fired up by tales of past misdeeds of English fans, are expecting trouble and are not always too choosy in how they find it.

The most well-behaved and gentle of English fans travelling abroad to matches must accept that the sins of past generations are likely to be visited upon their heads.

As Manchester United fans found to their cost, it is much safer to stay home.

You know it makes sense.

BY PADDY AGNEW

Milan under threat

Five-horse race for the title

ON the day that the joint league leaders, Milan and Parma, drew 0-0 in an eagerly awaited top of table clash, the Milan coach Fabio Capello (below) made two telling observations.

Asked if he felt concerned about his side's second 0-0 draw in four days, following their Champions league draw away to Belgian side Anderlecht, he replied:

"Nine of the eleven Milan players who played today are playing twice a week at the moment, you have to remember that"

Asked how he felt about being joined by Sampdoria in a three way tie on top of the table, Capello immediately identified the Milan "old boy", Dutchman Ruud Gullit, as a major reason for Sampdoria's success, adding:

"Ruud has been the player to inspire Sampdoria to the top of the table and, given that Sampdoria have no European commitments, I'm of the idea that the biggest threat to us comes from Sampdoria"

Capello was making that observation at mid-point during a hectic four weeks in which Milan played five consecutive league games (Napoli, Parma, Torino, Cagliari and Udinese), two Champions League ties (Anderlecht and FC Porto) and the Intercontinental Cup Final against Brazilian side, Sao Paulo, in Tokyo.

Furthermore, prior to the Parma game, Milan had played championship rivals Juventus, Sampdoria and Internazionale in three consecutive league games.

Capello's remarks about "nine of his 11" playing twice a week was a reference to the fact that Milan's busy autumn schedule had provoked an injury toll that stretched even the much vaunted "turnover" system to near break point.

With such as Gigi Lentini and Marco Van Basten already on the long term injured list, Capello's problems were not helped by further injuries to Angelo Carbone, Stefano Eranio, Mauro Tassotti and, most important of all, the Croat Zvonimir Boban.

Capello's remarks about Sampdoria's less hectic schedule perhaps reflected an inevitable concern about his own team's ability to last out the season.

After all, Capello knows only too well that when Milan picked up the title last May, the side was well over the top, exhausted by a typically hectic Milan programme of Serie A, Champions Cup, Italian Cup and prestige friendly soccer.

Sampdoria, too, cause concern to Capello for the obvious reason that they were the only one of Milan's direct rivals capable of beating them (3-2, as recorded last month in this column). Otherwise, the Milan record against the major rivals is more than adequate, with a home win against Inter, a home draw with Juventus and an away draw with Parma.

No real sign of a crack there.

A reflection of the Milan concern about player

Westward bound . . . but only just

"IMPOSSIBILISSIMO" — that is how Italian Football Federation president Antonio Matarrese responded to the idea that his Italy might not make it to US '94.

Matarrese had been speaking on the eve of Italy's final and decisive 1-0 win against Portugal at the San Siro in Milan.

Matarrese was proved right in the end but Italy got one awful fright as Portugal dominated a game which they had to win in order to qualify for the finals at the expense of the Italians.

In the end, Portugal were caught out on the counter attack by an 83rd-minute Dino Baggio goal at a moment when they had gambled all by substituting two defenders, Joao Pinto and Rui Costa, with two strikers, Domingos and Rui Aguas.

Italy's qualification is in no small way thanks to Portugal's failure to score four or more goals in their second last game against Estonia.

Had the Portuguese won by more than the final 3-0 scoreline, then they would have travelled to the San Siro one week later needing only a draw to qualify.

Italy have made it to the finals, all right, but if they are to have a good run in America next year, then they had better improve on the inconsistent form they have shown throughout their qualifying group.

SPOTLIGHT ON
PIETRO VIERCHOWOD

strength, though, came from their unexpected signing of Marseille defender, Marcel Desailly, for in or around $5.4million. With six foreigners already on their books, you might think that Milan would be wary of buying another.

Not so. The injury to Boban had so complicated Capello's plans that he wasted no time in finding an immediate positional replacement, even at the cost of signing another foreigner. One disenchanted observer of this market activity was Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic (left), who commented succintly:

"Seven foreigners at Milan ? They're mad"

Not much later, though, Savicevic was the one to go mad, infuriating coach Capello by a refusal to turn out as a substitute against Anderlecht in their Champions League tie.

It became "Il Grande Caso".

A bemused Capello told reporters in Brussels, on the eve of the Anderlecht tie: "Savicevic does not want to sit on the bench . . . it's a refusal on his part. He says that foreign players should not be asked to sit on the bench"

Savicevic, according to friends such as Inter's Macedonian striker Darko Pancev and Milan team mate Boban, has had enough and wants to leave at the end of the season, or sooner if possible.

Universally recognised as a gifted player, he has had difficulty adapting his individualistic skills to the work rate requirements of Capello's Milan.

Ruud Gullit may have enjoyed the irony of it all.

He complained for much of last season that, unless he was given a sustained first team run by Milan, he could not produce his best form.

Sure of his team place and tactically free at Sampdoria, he had scored nine league goals by the 13th day of the season thus equalling his all time Italian seasonal best, scored in 1987-88, his first year in Italy.

Fabio Capello may be overstating things when he says that Sampdoria represent his main rivals, but the overstatement is only marginal.

His opposite number at Sampdoria, Swede Sven Eriksson, however, is taking no chances, superstitiously refusing to talk about leading the table or being a championship contender:

"The last time we talked like that, (after Sampdoria's 3-2 defeat of Milan), look what happened — we got beaten at home by Cagliari in the next game."

Eriksson might be diffident, but the Italian title battle does concern him and, as a five horse race that features Sampdoria, Inter, Juventus, Parma and Milan, it is shaping up to be the most competitive Italian League championship for years.

Eriksson . . . superstitious.

RESULTS

SERIE A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Parma	13	8	3	2	19	7	19
Sampdoria	13	9	1	3	26	17	19
Milan	13	7	5	1	16	7	19
Juventus	13	6	5	2	24	14	17
Torino	13	7	2	4	20	13	16
Internazionale	13	5	5	3	14	11	15
Lazio	13	5	5	3	14	11	15
Napoli	13	5	4	4	19	14	14
Cagliari	13	5	4	4	19	19	14
Cremonese	13	5	3	5	13	14	13
Roma	13	4	5	4	12	13	13
Piacenza	13	3	6	4	12	16	12
Genoa	13	3	4	6	9	15	10
Foggia	13	1	8	4	12	16	10
Udinese	13	2	4	7	7	16	8
Atalanta	13	2	4	7	13	23	8
Reggiana	13	1	6	6	6	18	8
Lecce	13	1	2	10	11	22	4

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

JUVENTUS 4 (R. Baggio pen, 55, 57 pen, Moller 51)
GENOA 0. **Att:** 40,000.

SAMPDORIA 3 (Katanec 57, R. Mancini 71 pen, Gullit 77)
MILAN 2 (Albertini 11, B. Laudrup 26). **Att:** 42,000.

INTER 3 (Sosa 16, 37, 65)
PARMA 2 (Grun 19, Minotti 76). **Att:** 70,000.

PIACENZA 1 (Papais 28)
NAPOLI 1 (Bia 18). **Att:** 14,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Kolyvanov 58)
CREMONESE 1 (Dezotti 72). **Att:** 18,000.

LAZIO 2 (Winter 17, Signori 41)
UDINESE 1 (Branca 62). **Att:** 40,000.

CAGLIARI 2 (Cappioli 23, Dely Valdes 72)
TORINO 1 (Silenzi 36 pen). **Att:** 20,000.

REGGIANA 0
AS ROMA 0. **Att:** 14,200.

LECCE 5 (Russo 47, 81, Ceramicola 48, Baldieri 66 pen, Notaristefano 80)
ATALANTA 1 (Ganz 13). **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

PARMA 2 (Zola 83, Brolin 87 pen)
JUVENTUS 0. **Att:** 27,000.

MILAN 2 (Panucci 35, Papin 53)
INTER 1 (Bergkamp 61 pen). **Att:** 81,000.
● *Milan's Croat midfielder Zvonimir Boban injured a knee and could be out for 3 months.*

SAMPDORIA 1 (Bertarelli 3)
CAGLIARI 2 (Allegri 68, Matteoli 70 pen). **Att:** 30,000.

CREMONESE 2 (Dezotti 43, Tentoni 82)
LECCE 1 (Russo 33). **Att:** 8,000.

NAPOLI 1 (Fonseca 71)
LAZIO 2 (Favalli 68, Signori 82 pen). **Att:** 50,000.

TORINO 2 (Silenzi 32, 47)
REGGIANA 0. **Att:** 20,000.

AS ROMA 0
FOGGIA 0. **Att:** 51,700.

ATALANTA 0
PIACENZA 0. **Att:**20,000.

GENOA 4 (Skuhravy 4, Nappi 16, Caricola 17, Ciocci 63)
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 15,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

ITALIAN CUP — 2nd round, 2nd leg

LUCCHESE 2 INTER 1
Inter won 3-2 on agg

3rd round — 1st leg
MILAN 1 PIACENZA 1
● *Milan forward Gigi Lentini appears as a second-half substitute, his first match since his car crash last August.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

ATALANTA 0
PARMA 2 (Brolin 63, Zola 85). **Att:** 22,000.

MILAN 2 (Panucci 61, Albertini 89)
NAPOLI 1 (Pecchia 45). **Att:** 65,000.

FOGGIA 1 (Roy 12)
SAMPDORIA 2 (Gullit 24, Lombardo 76). **Att:** 20,000.

JUVENTUS 1 (Kohler 84)
CAGLIARI 1 (Oliveira 67). **Att:** 40,000.

LAZIO 1 (Boksic 9)
TORINO 2 (Silenzi 67 pen, Gregucci 82). **Att:** 45,000.
● *Lazio's new Croat forward Alen Boksic scored on his home debut.*

GENOA 1 (Ruotolo 52)
INTER 0. **Att:** 30,000.

REGGIANA 2 (Futre 60, Mateut 88)
CREMONESE 0. **Att:** 14,000.
● *Portuguese forward Paulo Futre scored on his debut for Reggiana, but also tore knee ligaments which could keep him out for 3 months.*

LECCE 0
AS ROMA 2 (Lanna 80, Balbo 88). **Att:** 12,000.
● *Rino Marchesi's first game as Lecce's new coach in succession to Nedo Sonetti.*

PIACENZA 0
UDINESE 0. **Att:** 10,000.

STAR TSAR

Tough guy with a tattoo is still in top class

SAMPDORIA'S astute spending has done much to rekindle hopes since the club's disappointing finale to the 1992-93 season.

Failure to qualify for European competition led to the inspired acquisitions of Milan's Ruud Gullit and Alberigo Evani, and England's David Platt from Juventus. The new arrivals have strengthened the attacking potential considerably, but Samp also rely on an old boy to bring success back to the port city.

He is the defender known as Tsar — Pietro Vierchowod, son of a Russian immigrant, still flourishing at 34, and an example to all up-and-coming defenders.

In spite of his tough image, many look to him as a role model.

Vierchowod's dedication and enthusiasm have not diminished during his 18-year career, and the fact that he continues to be the first to arrive at the training ground exemplifies his love for the game.

"I believe that my professionalism has enabled me to stay at the top for so long," he says.

Vierchowod's conduct on the field has earned him nicknames such as "the Incredible Hulk" from Diego Maradona, but Milan's Marco Van Basten says: "Vierchowod is not a dirty player. He is a fair defender — very hard, but fair."

Indeed, despite Vierchowod's uncompromising manner, his idol was the stylish Rudi Krol of Ajax and Holland.

Vierchowod cannot be described as your everyday footballer. He has been portrayed as a loner who speaks little, but is always heard when he decides to divulge an opinion.

"I've been described as being hard-headed," he says.

"But everyone's entitled to speak their mind."

Vierchowod's outburst before last season's Genoa derby was an apt illustration of his frankness.

"Genoa would be better off playing in Serie B." he said. "After all, that's what their fans deserve.

"During the week preceding the derby, their fans always hurl insults and abuse at Sampdoria players, whereas our supporters act with decorum. That is the main difference between Sampdoria and Genoa."

A tattoo of a black panther's head underlines Vierchowod's image, yet he never misses a trip to

CONTINUED OVER

PRO-FILE

PIETRO VIERCHOWOD

SAMPDORIA AND ITALY

Born: May 6, 1959 in Calcinate.

Previous clubs: Romanese, Como, Sampdoria, Fiorentina *(loan)*, AS Roma *(loan)*.

Serie A debut: September 1980 for Como v AS Roma, lost 1-0.

International debut: January 1991, v Holland *(Uruguayan Gold Cup)*.

International caps: 40.

HONOURS

World Cup: 1982.

Italian Championship: 1982 *(with AS Roma)*, 1991 *(with Sampdoria)*.

Italian Cup: 1985, 1988, 1989 *(with Sampdoria)*.

Cup-winners Cup: 1990 *(with Sampdoria)*.

CONTINUED

church for Sunday mass. And he combines his love of restaurants and with that of astronomy.

On the field, he is fearless and tenacious, committed to winning at all costs, and undeniably the type of defender players would rather have alongside than against.

Juve's Gianluca Vialli was a team-mate for eight years, and says: "With the Tsar I would play in hell. You're never beaten with Pietro in your side until the referee blows the final whistle."

Pietro Vierchowod was born on May 6, 1959, In Calcinate, near Bergamo. His father Ivan was a Russian soldier of Ukrainian descent imprisoned by the Germans during the war and subsequently deported to Italy.

When peace resumed he settled in Spirano, close to Bergamo, married, and had three children.

At 16, Pietro was given a trial by Milan. They decided that he was not worthy of a place and he was forced to pursue a different career route.

Vierchowod joined Fourth Division Romanese, and after only three games Second Division Como were alerted.

The clubs arranged a friendly so that Como could take a closer look, he was signed immediately, and rapidly moved through the junior ranks and into the first team.

Vierchowod's first year with the seniors ended in disappointment as Como were relegated to Serie C, but he later contributed to the club's rise to Serie A in consecutive seasons.

Even when Como avoided relegation only on goal difference, after Brescia had been penalised five points for irregularities, he had a successful time.

Enzo Bearzot called him up for the national team, preceded by a move to Sampdoria, and in January 1981, Vierchowod made his debut against Holland in Uruguay's Gold Cup tournament.

Vierchowod tracks Barcelona's Salinas in the 1992 Champions Cup final.

His second cap three months later, against East Germany, was his last for more than two years. Still, it might have been a different story. He was selected for the triumphant 1982 World Cup squad, and although kept out of the side by Claudio Gentile and Fulvio Collovati, he was the unlikely replacement for the injured Giancarlo Antognoni in the final with West Germany.

He then hurt an ankle, and Barzot was compelled to field 18-year-old Giuseppe Bergomi instead.

Sampdoria's president, the late Paolo Mantovani, had sent Vierchowod on loan to Fiorentina for the 1981-82 season, and aimed to compensate him for his World Cup disappointment.

"This time, I'll send you to a club where you'll win the title," he said.

So Vierchowod went to Roma, and played in every fixture during their 1983 championship season.

Then he returned to Genoa to start 11 fruitful seasons — the title and the Cup-winners Cup in 1991, three Italian Cups, runners-up in the Cup-winners in 1989 and the Champions Cup in 1992, defeated both times by Barcelona.

The much-travelled former Samp boss, Vudjadin Boskov, views Vierchowod as "the greatest defender I have ever had the pleasure to coach."

From October 1983 to April 1985, he took part in 16 straight international matches and ultimately booked his ticket to the World Cup Finals in Mexico.

He played in every game alongside the legendary Gaetano Scirea, but an ageing side had exhausted their world-beating form and were on their way home after an early exit at the hands of the talented French.

Azeglio Vicini took over as coach and promoted many young players. So Vierchowod was starved of international football for almost four years. He resumed his position in time for Italia '90, but started only one match — the 2-1 victory over England in the play-off for third place.

Italy's failure is now history, as is Vicini's role as national coach. Arrigo Sacchi was appointed in November 1991 on the strength of his success with Milan and, at first, he too discarded Vierchowod.

Eventually, at 33, the Tsar was drafted in for a friendly against Mexico in January 1993 to win his 40th cap.

After that he remained a fixture for four consecutive games, and doubtless will feature significantly in his fourth World Cup.

His swan song could be his finest.

RAY DELLA PIETRA

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BY GRAHAM TURNER

RIGHTING A LISTING SHIP

REAL MADRID are still alive and kicking. That was the outcome of an extraordinary general meeting called by club president Ramon Mendoza with a view to pushing through urgent financial measures.

He needed at least two-thirds of the votes in order to go ahead with his viability plan and the situation was so grim that a "No" vote would have led to voluntary liquidation and, possibly, an official receiver.

Mendoza's opponents took advantage of the situation to mount a vigorous campaign for a negative vote, but failed to obtain the 33 per cent support they needed. Of the 793 "socios" at the meeting (some 1,800 were entitled to be there), 548 voted for the emergency plan (69.1 per cent) and 229 voted against (28.9 per cent).

The other 16 boiled down to nine abstentions, six votes declared void and one blank paper.

Mendoza's route to economic salvation is basically an extension of existing debts, converting some of the short-term obligations into longer-term. To do it, he received the green light to go ahead with requesting a £17.5million loan from Banesto bank.

Another company, Infosa, will pay Real £8million in compensation for the non-construction of a sport pavilion.

That may sound strange, but it's similar to the subsidies the EC pays to farmers in exchange for not growing certain crops. Real's long-term agreement with Dorna obliged the company to build the new pavilion, but both sides now rate the proposition as unviable.

Real, however, are entitled to compensation for the amount built into the contract.

Perm any one from six

HUNCHES that an outsider might be worth a peseta or three this season gained credibility when the twelfth fixtures of the championship left six teams neck and neck at the top of the table.

Only goal difference established a pecking order of Sevilla, Deportivo La Coruna, Barcelona, Real Madrid, Athletic Bilbao and Valencia.

Never before had there been a six-way tie after more than ten fixtures. The previous best attempt at equality, if not fraternal love, dates back to 1983-84, when five sides shared top spot after 11 games.

Setting aside potential questions for future editions of Trivial Pursuit, the significance is that the leaders' haul of 16 points from 12 games is the lowest for a decade. Nobody looks like champions, and the favourites have taken turns to hit the self-destruct button.

Johan Cruyff, having seen Real Madrid make up a five-point deficit in seven games, is convinced that his Barcelona players are top of the laziness league. His reaction to the amazing 1-0 home defeat by tail-enders Lleida was a £750 fine for every member of the squad, whether they had played, pretended to play, sat on the bench or watched from the stand.

The Supreme Court has not been asked to pass sentence on Cruyff's rough justice.

On their previous League visit over 40 years ago, Lleida had been thrashed 6-1, and their grand total of one win, four points and seven goals from their opening 11 fixtures suggested a repeat performance in the match billed as a Catalan derby. But the 5,000 fans who made the 90-minute trip down the motorway enjoyed another 90-minute trip. Once goalkeeper Mauro Ravnic had saved a

'Too many of my players had their heads in the US'

poorly-struck penalty from Romario, Lleida not only shackled Barcelona but should have finished them off long before Jaime's superb left-footed goal in the 88th minute.

Cruyff diverted the blame towards the previous Wednesday's Spain-Denmark match. "Too many of my players had their heads in the US," he snapped.

He has often complained about the number of his players called up for international duty, but since Javier Clemente took office in September 1992, Barcelona have lost only four of the 14 games played on the weekend after. The previous three had been tough away fixtures against Deportivo (twice) and Real Madrid.

Wednesday's sweat seemed a poor excuse for the weekend's tears after the first League defeat at Nou Camp since October 8, 1991.

Cruyff's bywords are pressure and motivation, but this season he has prodded, pricked, threatened, cajoled, warned, whined and fined so much that his players are dizzy. His decision to drop Andoni Zubizarreta, first-choice goalkeeper since his arrival in 1986, was good news for understudy Carlos Busquets, but stirred up the dressing-room even more.

Poor Zubi was so rattled that in the Denmark match he committed his worst error in 83 internationals. Confusing friend with foe, he threw the ball to Michael Laudrup and then fouled him to earn the red card in the 10th minute.

Wanted . . . Vujadin Boskov.

Wanted . . . Uli Stielike.

Whined . . . Johan Cruyff.

On the flight back to Barcelona, Laudrup consoled Zubi, and Zubi was the first of many to offer consolation for Denmark's elimination, which Laudrup described as "the most demoralising experience of my career".

Valencia are another side sampling life at the top without enjoying it. The 7-0 UEFA Cup thrashing by Karlsruhe followed by an unlucky 2-0 defeat in Gijon and a comprehensive 3-0 loss at home against Real Madrid combined to pass sentence on coach Guus Hiddink.

Nobody seemed to agree with the board's decision. The players claimed publicly that it was unfair, and the fans expressed their displeasure with banners and street demonstrations. Their anger was not directed at Hiddink but at club president Arturo Tuzon.

Hiddink's problems always had been located in the boardroom and one director, a week before the sacking, announced that even if Valencia won the title he would vote against Hiddink's survival on the bench.

Valencia promptly took a joint share, alongside Atletico Madrid, in moves towards Vujadin Boskov and Uli Stielike. At the time of writing, however, the side were working under club stalwart Francisco Real, whose debut could hardly have been better — a 1-0 victory over leaders Sevilla in the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium.

Lynx-eyed readers may have spotted that, surprise, surprise, Atletico Madrid were not among the six co-leaders.

Jair Pereira's dismissal paved the way for another club stalwart, Emilio Cruz, to risk his posterior on the hot seat and, despite an injury-time goal that gave them a 1-1 draw in Valladolid, president Jesus Gil was so displeased that he roared: "I hope Deportivo beat us 7-0 because that will show the players just how bad they are. Emilio Cruz has a lot of hard work to do."

How many working days will he be given?

The UEFA Cup elimination by modest OFI Crete did not help. Last season UEFA did a ton-of-bricks job on Atletico after a German referee had turned down penalty appeals which would have given the Mattress-makers a place in the Wembley final, at the expense of Cup-winners Cup winners Parma.

Their allergy to German referees was worsened when they were beaten by a penalty which was saved and did not cross the line. Atletico's bid to have the match replayed was aborted by UEFA. Gil's off-the-record reaction was unprintable. Come to think of it, his on-the-record reaction was unprintable, too.

They and Valencia were the only second-round casualties as Spain joined Italy, Portugal, France and Germany in providing 22 of the 32 European survivors.

Alfonso's in at last

RUB OUT Butragueno, pencil in Alfonso. That's the message from the fans at Real Madrid and one which should be borne in mind in the run-up to the World Cup finals.

Emilio Butragueno has been one of the cornerstones of Real for a decade, lynchpin of the national team in the 1986 and 1990 World Cups.

Nudging him off his pedestal has been little short of mission impossible for the younger prospects coming through the youth scheme, and the signings of front-men such as Ivan Zamorano and Peter Dubovsky has made the path even stonier.

Butragueno, however, is spending more and more time on the bench and the Vulture's flappings have produced vociferous signs of disapproval from the terraces which gave him unconditional support for so many seasons.

Javier Clemente has summoned him for international duty only once since taking over in September 1992.

Alfonso Perez Munoz, combining persistence, patience and a good deal of talent, is poised to don his crown.

Almost single-handed, he has lifted Real from their deep early-season crisis and, perhaps more importantly, has given the fans something exceptional to cheer while most of the sacred cows at Real have been struggling to produce five-out-of-ten performances.

But there has been a long, winding road towards the first team and Alfonso still does not consider himself a regular. The name might be familiar to those who followed Spain's gold medal campaign in the Barcelona Olympics. Alfonso looks fragile but is no powder-puff, has exceptional skills, a devastating turn of pace and, despite his lack of inches, is good enough in the air to persuade some fans to remember Carlos Santillana.

He was born in Getafe, just outside Madrid, and still puts on overalls from time to time to lend a hand in his father's car-repair workshop.

Real's scouts spotted him at 13 and he worked his way through the youth scheme, representing Spain at every age level. At Real, his big breaks came in 1990-91 when he was whisked out of the Under-19s to play Second Division football with the reserves and then be told to report with the first team, trained at that time by Alfredo di Stefano.

He made his senior debut against Zaragoza on February 24, 1991, at 18, but, as they say, Butragueno casts a large shadow.

Being hailed as a cross between the Vulture and Van Basten hardly helped Alfonso's cause, especially in corners of the dressing-room where he was seen as an unwelcome threat in times of managerial changes and crises.

In the 1991-92 and 1992-93 seasons Alfonso started only 11 games and was used 39 times as substitute. Benito Floro seemed so reluctant to place faith in him that, during the summer, he was asked if he would contemplate going somewhere on loan. Alfonso preferred to stay and work for his place. Finally, he's got it.

RESULTS

PRIMERA DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	13	8	2	3	26	14	18
La Coruna	13	7	4	2	17	5	18
Athletic Bilbao	13	7	3	3	22	14	17
Valencia	13	7	3	3	18	13	17
Sevilla	13	6	4	3	21	11	16
Real Madrid	13	7	2	4	22	14	16
Sporting Gijon	13	7	2	4	15	11	16
Racing Santander	13	6	3	4	15	9	15
Real Sociedad	13	5	4	4	17	19	14
Tenerife	13	6	2	5	20	24	14
Atletico Madrid	13	4	5	4	20	18	13
Albacete	13	2	8	3	14	17	12
Celta Vigo	13	3	6	4	11	14	12
Real Zaragoza	13	4	3	6	18	20	11
Rayo Vallecano	13	4	2	7	19	24	10
Real Oviedo	13	3	4	6	9	19	10
Logrones	13	3	3	7	16	21	9
Osasuna	13	3	2	8	13	22	8
Real Valladolid	13	2	4	7	8	20	8
Lleida	13	2	2	9	8	20	6

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

VALENCIA 3 (Fernando 31, 59, Mijatovic 64)
CELTA 0. **Att:** 38,000.

LA CORUNA 3 (Bebeto 44, Fran 55, Donato 88)
OSASUNA 1 (Martin Dominguez 62). **Att:** 23,000.

LLEIDA 0
SEVILLA 3 (Monchu 12, Suker 29 pen, Marcos 74). **Att:** 9,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 4 (Kosecki 47, 73, Pedro 55, Caminero 88)
BARCELONA 3 (Romario 14, 24, 34). **Att:** 35,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Dertycia 71, Conte 72)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Picabea 89). **Att:** 18,000.

ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Guerrero 28, Ciganda 44, 72)
VALLADOLID 0. **Att:** 35,000.

RACING SANTANDER 1 (Geli 93)
ALBACETE 1 (Dos Santos 79). **Att:** 14,995.

REAL MADRID 2 (Zamorano 27, 77)
RAYO VALLECANO 0. **Att:** 16,000.

LOGRONES 1 (Saienko 22)
SPORTING 2 (Escaich 41, 54). **Att:** 9,000.

OVIEDO 2 (Carlos 51, 72)
REAL ZARAGOZA 1 (Pardeza 91). **Att:** 14,200.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

SEVILLA 3 (Simeone 30, Caravajal 87, Suker 90)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Pablo 60). **Att:** 40,000.
● *This win took Sevilla top of the table, their best start since 1947-48*

BARCELONA 2 (Stoichkov 5, Romario 25)
RACING SANTANDER 1 (Geli 47). **Att:** 70,000.

VALLADOLID 0
LA CORUNA 0. **Att:** 15,000.

SPORTING 2 (Escaich 38, Juanele 90)
VALENCIA 0. **Att:** 17,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Hierro 4, 36)
LOGRONES 1 (Iturino 41). **Att:** 70,000.

CELTA 1 (Gil 53)
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Valverde 61). **Att:** 21,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Carlos Xavier 83)
LLEIDA 3 (Chema 13, Rubio 26 pen, Andersen 67). **Att:** 12,000.
● *Lleida's first ever away win in the Primera Division.*

ALBACETE 2 (Dos Santos 50, Zalazar 69 pen)
TENERIFE 3 (Chano 22, Latorre 27, Olivares 59). **Att:** 12,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 2 (Esnaider 30 Poyet 32)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Caminero 44). **Att:** 10,000.

OSASUNA 2 (Ziober 78, Sanchez Jara 87)
REAL OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 12,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

WEEKEND

LOGRONES 1 (Salenko 65)
SEVILLA 1 (Moya 45). **Att:** 9,000.

TENERIFE 2 (Conte 48, Felipe 77)
BARCELONA 3 (Romario 6, 59, Stoichkov 38). **Att:** 22,000.

VALENCIA 0
REAL MADRID 3 (Alfonso 22, Hierro 58, Zamorano 78). **Att:** 45,000.
● *Valencia fire Dutch coach Guus Hiddink.*

ATHLETIC BILBAO 3 (Guerrero 34, Escurza 63, Valverde 90)
LA CORUNA 1 (Donato 29 pen). **Att:** 38,000.

CELTA 0
SPORTING 2 (Muniz 44 pen, Stanic 90). **Att:** 15,000.

ATLETICO MADRID 3 (Quico 21, 46, Pedro 70 pen)
OSASUNA 0. **Att:** 15,000.
● *Atletico appoint Emilio Cruz as their coach.*

RACING SANTANDER 2 (Radchenko 4, 80)
REAL ZARAGOZA 0. **Att:** 13,304.

RAYO VALLECANO 4 (Orejuela 13, 49, Hugo Sanchez 47, Calderon 92)
REAL SOCIEDAD 1 (Alquiza 84). **Att:** 8,000.

LLEIDA 0
ALBACETE 1 (Dos Santos 74). **Att:** 16,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

SEVILLA 0
VALENCIA 1 (Penev 25). **Att:** 30,000.

LA CORUNA 4 (Fran 3, 38, Donato 9 pen, Bebeto 23)
OVIEDO 0. **Att:** 22,000.

BARCELONA 0
LLEIDA 1 (Jaime 86). **Att:** 80,000.

REAL MADRID 2 (Zamorano 10, Ramis 73)
CELTA 1 (Losada 45). **Att:** 90,000.

GIJON 0
ATHLETIC BILBAO 1 (Ciganda 29). **Att:** 19,000.

VALLADOLID 1 (Amavisca 54)
ATLETICO MADRID 1 (Toni 93). **Att:** 12,000.

OSASUNA 0
RACING SANTANDER 0. **Att:** 14,000.

REAL SOCIEDAD 2 (Kodro 18, 48)
LOGRONES 2 (Markovic 55, Salenko 63 pen). **Att:** 18,000.

REAL ZARAGOZA 6 (Higuera 7, 35, Esnaider 18, 47, Solana 31, Gay 51)
TENERIFE 2 (Dertycai 10, Conte 53). **Att:** 10,000.

ALBACETE 1 (Menendez 86)
RAYO VALLECANO 1 (Hugo Sanchez 90). **Att:** 10,000.

Rowing the boat ashore

SPAIN are in the World Cup finals for the fifth consecutive time but made such a hard job of it that progress was more coracle than Concorde.

Coach Javier Clemente spent 15 months treading the tightrope between glory and failure and finally, after beating the Republic of Ireland in Dublin and Denmark in Seville, emerged as a hero.

So did the team, who laboured for 80 minutes with ten men and finished off a disappointingly conservative Danish side with a Fernando Hierro header from a right-wing corner. Jose-Maria Bakero admitted afterwards that he had backed into Peter Schmeichel as he was going for the cross, but the referee awarded Spain the crucial goal which persuaded the inhabitants of Velez-Malaga, Hierro's home town, to name a street after him.

The match was nothing to shout about, unless you were among the 38,000 fans who had queued for ages to buy tickets. The only talking points were Zubizarreta's sending-off in the 10th minute, Hierro's goal and the promising performance by Zubi's understudy, Santiago Canizares, rejected by Real Madrid and now on their shopping list if they can match Celta's asking price of £2 million. Otherwise it was all about guts and determination.

Spain will go to the States as an unknown quantity, both in terms of their play and the composition of their squad. Clemente used 36 players in his 11 qualifying games, preferring to adopt a horses-for-courses approach to individual matches. He now must narrow down his options and select a squad flexible enough to take on widely varying opposition in the finals.

In the meantime, Clemente is condemned to live through conflicts of his own making. His love-hate relationships with sectors of the Spanish media continue to produce all manner of judgement on his work — and could provide many a headline in the US next summer.

Winner... Fernando Hierro.

Lucky omen for Eintracht

BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT won the unofficial title of Herbstmeister (autumn champions) with two games to spare, having established a five-point lead over Bayern Munich.

The march to the top could be a good omen for Eintracht. So far, 20 out of 30 "half-time" Bundesliga leaders have gone on to win the title.

And Eintracht have managed without leading scorer Anthony Yeboah, recovering from a cartilage operation.

Veteran goalkeeper Uli Stein, at 39 the oldest active player in the League, says: "I don't know if we will win the title, but I do know that we are the best team in Germany right now."

Stein thinks that most of the credit belongs to the new team manager, Klaus Toppmoller.

"His preparations are always meticulous and systematic. We started well tuned in, having trained for stamina, power, pace, tactical variations and set pieces like never before."

Manfred Binz holds the defence together, ably supported by a Georgian, Kachaber Zchadadse. In midfield the experienced Uwe Bein, who after 14 appearances announced his retirement from the national side, and newcomer Maurizio Gaudino are the orchestrators.

The other new recruits, Polish international Jan Furtok and Nigerian Jay-Jay Okocha, provide striking power.

By contrast record champions Bayern Munich sustained three hammer blows within eight days.

First they were dumped out of the UEFA Cup by Norwich City, "an average team" as Bayern's Lothar Matthaus described them. Next they lost the Bavarian derby 2-0 to lowly Nurnberg, who are in deep internal crisis. And finally Bayern's expensive outfit stumbled out of the DFB Cup to another unfashionable opponent, Dynamo Dresden, by 2-1.

Bayern were Germany's only fallers in European competitions after two rounds, and vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge claims that the club did not lose financially because they only budgeted for one round.

But as the other vice-president, Franz Beckenbauer, explained: "We were planning to buy new players, but this will now have to be shelved."

Bayern could have made a packet had they gone on to the final, like Borussia Dortmund did last season.

Team manager Erich Ribbeck is not yet being openly criticised and he is standing up remarkably well to the pressure.

"Our situation is serious, but not hopeless," he asserts.

"We created more chances than the opposition in each game, but didn't take them."

Toppmoller claims that "Bayern are out of the title race", but Ribbeck dismisses this as premature and reminds him: "We have more home than away games to play and all the big guns must still come to Munich. A five-point deficit is not insurmountable."

Hamburg promptly beat Eintracht 3-0 to narrow the gap to three points.

Karlsruhe, the European debutants, surprised themselves and the whole country by their triumph over Valencia in the UEFA Cup.

Having lost the first leg by 3-1, KSC demolished the then Spanish leaders by 7-0 before an ecstatic full house of 25,000.

It was an historic night, the greatest 90 minutes in the club's 99-year existence, and one of the most impressive German team performances in European competition.

Karlsruhe's hero was striker Edgar Schmitt, 30, who joined the club last summer from Frankfurt. He scored four goals in a blistering display which even alerted national team manager Vogts.

"This was the greatest achievement of my sporting life," said Schmitt, who also hit the away goal in Valencia.

The national team, at full strength, defeated a badly depleted Brazil side 2-1 in Cologne, thanks to goals from Guido Buchwald and Andy Moller.

Two stars celebrated the occasion — captain Lothar Matthaus played his 104th international, overtaking Franz Bckenbauer and establishing a German record, and Andy Brehme returned after 18 months of voluntary absence and gained his 75th cap.

Title chaser . . . Mihajlovic of Eintracht (right) beats Hecking of Leipzig.

RESULTS

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eintracht	17	10	4	3	34	19	24
Bayern Munich	17	8	6	3	39	18	22
Duisburg	17	8	6	3	24	22	22
Leverkusen	17	8	5	4	36	24	21
Kaiserslautern	17	9	3	5	34	22	21
Hamburg	17	9	2	6	32	27	20
Werder Bremen	17	7	5	5	28	22	19
Koln	17	8	3	6	24	22	18
Bor. Dortmund	17	7	4	6	24	23	18
Karlsruhe	17	5	6	6	21	18	16
Dyn. Dresden	17	5	6	6	18	27	16
SC Freiburg	17	5	5	7	28	31	15
Borussia MG	17	5	5	7	31	35	15
Stuttgart	17	4	6	7	22	31	14
Nurnberg	17	5	3	9	21	28	13
Wattenscheid	17	2	7	8	21	32	11
VfB Leipzig	17	2	7	8	15	33	11
Schalke	17	2	5	10	14	32	9

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

WATTENSCHEID 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0. Att: 10,000.

BAYERN MUNICH 4 (Ziege 16, Valencia 28, 59, Matthaus 68 pen)
KAISERSLAUTERN 0. Att: 58,000.

LEVERKUSEN 2 (Thorn 43, Becker 64)
WERDER BREMEN 2 (M. Bode 7, Rufer 40). Att: 18,700.

DUISBURG 1 (Reinmayr 29)
NURNBERG 0. Att: 18,000.

HAMBURG 2 (M. Spies 83, Baron 84)
KOLN 4 (Weiser 9, Rudy 15, Polster 30, 61). Att: 30,850.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3 (Poschner 19, 55, Riedle 73)
BORUSSIA MG 0. Att: 42,800.

STUTTGART 3 (Knup 11, F. Walter 70, 81)
SCHALKE 0. Att: 20,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Stevic 85)
FREIBURG 2 (Todt 29, Cardoso 50). Att: 14,100.

LEIPZIG 1 (Heidrich 69)
KARLSRUHE 0. Att: 7,800.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 2 (Gaudino 82 pen, Bommer 90)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. Att: 45,000.

NURNBERG 2 (Golke 23, Criens 50)
BAYERN MUNICH 0. Att: 50,000.
● *Nurnberg sack coach Willi Entenmann.*

KAISERSLAUTERN 4 (Kadlec 26, Roos 55, Sforza 81, Kuntz 82)
WATTENSCHEID 1 (Buckmaier 40). Att: 30,000.

KOLN 2 (Polster 3, 66)
WERDER BREMEN 0. Att: 47,000.

BORUSSIA MG 2 (Dahlin 20, Neun 79 pen)
HAMBURG 2 (Lechkov 38, Von Heesen 87 pen). Att: 25,000.

KARLSRUHE 5 (Bender 5, 19, 60, Carl 78, Kiriakov 86)
DUISBURG 0. Att:16,500.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Marschall 16)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Kirsten 77). Att: 11,700.

FREIBURG 2 (O. Freund 17, Wassmer 32)
STUTTGART 1 (M. Heidenreich 20 og). Att: 15,000.

SCHALKE 3 (Eckstein 27, 56, Anderbrugge 90 pen)
LEIPZIG 1 (Rische 87). Att: 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

KARLSRUHE 0
STUTTGART 0. Att: 35,000.

WEEKEND

HAMBURG 0
EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3 (Von Heesen 47 pen, Sassen 58, Baron 74). Att: 54,460.

BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Sternkopf 50)
KARLSRUHE 0. Att: 40,000.

DUISBURG 1 (Preetz 13)
SCHALKE 0. Att: 30,128.

STUTTGART 1 (Sverrisson 19)
BAYER LEVERKUSEN 4 (Sergio 26, 36, 79, Schuster 77). Att: 18,000.

BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2 (Zorc 17, Schulz 86)
KAISERSLAUTERN 2 (Kuntz 10). Att: 42,800.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Penksa 32)
WERDER BREMEN 0. Att: 18,407.

LEIPZIG 2 (Weichert 60, 75)
FREIBURG 2 (Cardoso 29, Zeyer 41). Att: 5,500.

KOLN 0
BORUSSIA MG 4 (Max 7, 36, 60, Wynhoff 58). Att: 50,000.

WATTENSCHEID 2 (Sane 26, 46)
NURNBERG 1 (Neuhaus 77 og). Att: 6,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 0
KOLN 3 (Polster 61, Steinmann 63, Heidt 74). Att: 29,500.

SCHALKE 1 (Mulder 87)
BAYERN MUNICH 1 (Nerlinger 73). Att: 57,200.

FREIBURG 1 (Cardoso 82 pen)
DUISBURG 2 (Kozle 18, Schwartz 80). Att: 15,000.

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 3 (Schuster 56, Kirsten 67, 75)
LEIPZIG 1 (Heidrich 14). Att: 8,300.

KAISERSLAUTERN 3 (Sforza 32, Kadlec 35, Kuntz 39)
HAMBURG 0. Att: 36,000.

BORUSSIA MG 3 (Nielsen 13, Hochstatter 81, Max 90)
WERDER BREMEN 2 (Rufer 31, 37). Att: 27,000.

DYNAMO DRESDEN 1 (Marschall 89)
STUTTGART 0. Att: 10,600.

NURNBERG 0
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 0. Att: 44,500.

KARLSRUHE 2 (Krieg 41, Schmitt 75)
WATTENSCHEID 0. Att: 12,000.

BY ANDRE DUCLOS

A new

GERARD HOULLIER has paid the price for France's elimination from the World Cup, though he remains as executive director, and has been absolved of blame by such as Jean-Pierre Papin.

How far was he responsible for the amazing French collapse, when only a few weeks before the ultimate, humiliating elimination by Bulgaria — French foes in so many hard-fought qualifying battles over the years — the passage to the 1994 World Cup seemed little more than a relaxed jog trot?

It's difficult to see what, in terms of selection, Houllier could have done that he didn't do. Perhaps in the vital match against Bulgaria in Paris, he should have had the gifted David Ginola on from the start.

After all, though he has been used so much up front by club and country, Ginola made his name as a classic inside forward.

There seemed easily enough talent, enough firing power, in a French team with a superb strike unit in Papin and Eric Cantona to see off the Bulgarians.

As we know, it didn't happen, even though France took the lead. I suggest psychological factors may have played a part in both those home defeats.

Against Israel, there can be little doubt that France, after a victory in Tel Aviv, reckoned they had only to turn up to stroll through. Rude awakening.

Shock, horror. Which may have led in turn to the ultimate shock.

Against Bulgaria, the French froze, despite their early goal. That the traumatising failure against Israel robbed them of any self-belief.

But why despair? Though Federation president Jean Fournet-Fayard has resigned after nine troubled years (remember the Bordeaux scandal and the Bastia disaster?) though Marseille are in ruins, though Tapie is under siege, didn't Monaco thrash Moscow Spartak in their first Champions League match? And is not the 1998 World Cup to be in France, anyway? Relax, relax! We have already qualified!

But how will Paris react? During a period in which Cantona's tongue regularly seemed to run away with him, eventually landing him in such severe trouble with UEFA over his blasts at European refereeing, Paris was one of his targets.

He blasted away at the city's lack of passion for the game in general and the French team in particular.

This is nothing new, even if the charge now seems a lot less relevant than it did a few decades ago. Then, to the capital's shame, there was so little interest in pro football that an insane situation resulted.

A weird compromise was cobbled up between Paris and Strasbourg so that Racing Club played alternating fixtures in the two cities!

So, in due course, Racing perished. For so many years they had played a genial Armistice Day fixture in Paris against Arsenal, a rare titbit

Paris match . . . Xavier Gravelaine in action for PSG against Apoel Nicosia.

BY NICK BIDWELL

SPOTLIGHT ON REYNALD PEDROS

Along the Span

NANTES midfielder Reynald Pedros is the latest in a long line of French internationals whose ancestors came from Spain.

Christian Lopez, Jean-Francois Larios, Manuel Amoros, Luis Fernandez and Bernard Pardo all came from Spanish stock, and 22-year-old Pedros has a similar family tree.

"My grandparents still live in Valencia and I visit them often," he says.

"But I was born and brought up in France and I feel totally French. I have no identity problem.

"I was so proud when I was called into the France squad for the friendly against Russia last summer. Although I played only seven minutes as a substitute, it was fantastic to be involved at full international level."

He has made two further appearances since then, but says: "Of course, it will not be easy to establish myself in the French side. I have to compete for a place in midfield with some wonderful players — Didier Deschamps, Franck Sauzee, Paul Le Guen, David Ginola and Corentin Martins. "There are better and more experienced midfielders than me. Few youngsters become national team regulars overnight. I will have to maintain high standards for my club if I am to remain in the running."

Pedros need not worry about his international prospects. Since making his Nantes first-team debut in the autumn of 1990, he has matured into one of French football's most creative talents.

Fans marvel at his mazy dribbling,

PRO-FILE

REYNALD PEDROS

NANTES AND FRANCE

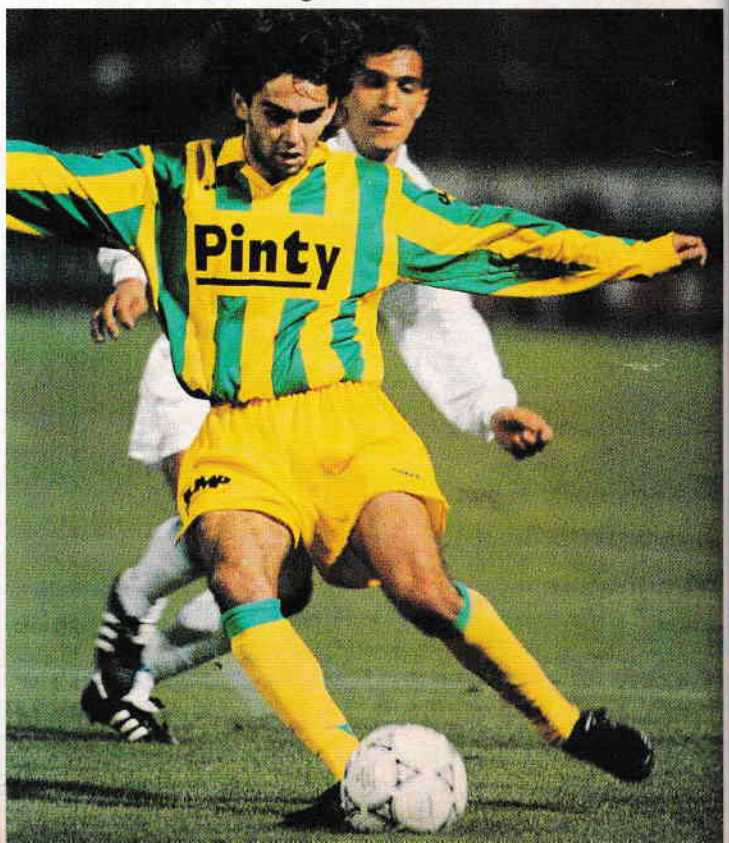
Born: October 10, 1971 in Orleans, France.

Previous club: Beaugency.

League debut: September 1990 v Cannes.

International debut: July 1993 v Russia.

International caps: 3



dawn in Paris

in days when the European competitions were still well into the future.

More recently the Paris Saint-Germain club succeeded Matra, who alas went bust, as the great Parisian hope: and even triumphed under the shrewd tutelage of a man who once taught in Liverpool schools: Gerard Houllier.

PSG, who had a lively if controversial chairman in Francis Borelli, have had their economic ups and downs, and their troubles with the pitch and the grandstand. The roof once fell down in the night.

But under that shrewd and gifted Portuguese ex-centre forward Artur Jorge, who once managed Matra, they are bent on regaining the French championship this season, and had built up a four-point lead as the second half began.

Jorge insists that we should remember the club's state in 1991. Progress, he feels, is steady, technically and tactically. Everyone now has confidence in everybody else.

"We're winning more, we're playing better. People are beginning to look at Paris Saint Germain in a different way, especially in the European Press. We are starting to frighten people."

Every day, the players, under Jorge — who won the Champions Cup when manager of Porto — work on moves until they become second nature.

"It's been going on for the past two years. Every manager has his ideas, but he tries to make things as simple as possible," says Jorge.

"Why complicate things? I'm not going to teach Rai or Valdo how to control the ball. On the other hand I can teach them one or two things which make the difference, persuade them that to play as I want is good for everyone."

Jorge has extended his contract for another year beyond June. It's understandable enough, given the fact that he must have high hopes of being involved in another European competition.

Marseille? Who knows where it will end and what will eventually happen to Tapie? Boksic, Desailly and Futre have all moved to Italy, and the club's debts are immense.

Goodness knows how they could ever pay them off, even though they have so many good players to sell. In the meantime, that depth of talent ensures for the moment at least that they can give a decent account of themselves.

But who would envy new manager Marc Bourrier in his heavy task of keeping up morale?

sh steps

delicate left-foot passes and excellent vision. And he can finish, too.

One of his most memorable goals came in a 6-0 thrashing of Montpellier last season. After a one-two with Nicolas Ouedec, Reynald was on the left edge of the opposition box. A centre appeared to be his sole option, but he chipped the ball over keeper Claude Barrabe into the far corner of the net for a goal of sheer class.

"When you score, it's a tremendous feeling," says Pedros.

"You experience a moment of intense pleasure which you want to share with colleagues and supporters."

There was certainly no shortage of excitement at Nantes last term. Despite being the French League's youngest side — average age 24 — they finished fifth and were domestic Cup runners-up to Paris Saint-Germain.

"At the start of last season most critics expected us to struggle and you could understand why," says Pedros.

"During the summer of 1992 Nantes were in serious financial trouble and the League relegated us to the Second Division on economic grounds.

"Shortly afterwards the decision was reversed, but most of the club's senior professionals were sold to cut the debts.

"Our coach, Jean-Claude Suaudeau, was forced to reply on myself and a number of other youngsters and we were determined to make the most of the opportunity. Several of our side had played together for years in the youth and reserve teams.

"We could play blindfolded and this understanding was a major reason for our success.

"Obviously I have heard many rumours about big clubs making enquiries regarding me and some of my team-mates — Patrice Loko, Jean-Michel Ferri, Nicolas Ouedec and Christian Karembeu.

"But I have no intention of leaving and I hope the others feel the same way.

"In two or three years, Nantes will be a force to be reckoned with both in France and Europe."

Saint-Etienne general manger Jean-Michel Larque is inclined to share that prediction.

"At times Nantes remind me of Johan Cruyff's Barcelona," he says.

"And although they play in different positions, Reynald's left foot is as dangerous as Hristo Stoichkov's."

Pedros, born in Orleans on October 10, 1971, began playing football with the Beaugency club at the age of eight. He went on to represent French schoolboys and in 1987 became an apprentice at Nantes.

"It was a dream come true," he says. "I always wanted to be a footballer and the game was all that mattered to me. On reaching school on Monday morning I was already thinking of going home on Friday afternoon and then playing football all weekend.

"Apart from Nantes, Auxerre were keen to sign me. They invited me to look at their facilities, but I came to the conclusion they were not the team for me. The atmosphere there was so serious that it might have been a factory.

"Nantes, on the other hand, are a much more friendly club and everything is done to make training enjoyable. I could not have asked for a better football education."

Three years after arriving at Nantes, Pedros was drafted into the first team for a League game at home to Cannes. He was on his way.

"To succeed in football you must be very strong mentally," he concludes.

"And I never doubted that I would make the grade in the French First Division."

RESULTS

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paris SG	19	12	5	2	25	10	29
Bordeaux	19	10	5	4	25	13	25
Monaco	19	8	7	4	31	19	23
Marseille	18	9	5	4	21	15	23
Auxerre	19	9	4	6	28	15	22
Nantes	19	6	9	4	16	12	21
Cannes	19	7	7	5	22	22	21
Montpellier	18	7	6	5	22	18	20
Strasbourg	19	5	10	4	23	20	20
Sochaux	19	5	9	5	20	19	19
Lyon	19	7	4	7	19	23	18
St Etienne	19	5	7	7	17	16	17
Metz	19	5	7	7	17	18	17
Lens	19	4	9	6	16	17	17
Martigues	19	4	8	7	21	29	16
Lille	19	3	9	7	19	27	15
Le Havre	19	2	11	6	12	20	15
Caen	19	6	3	10	13	29	15
Toulouse	19	2	9	8	12	25	13
Angers	19	3	6	10	17	29	12

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 1 (Weah 94)
NANTES 0. **Att:** 30,000.

SOCHAUX 2 (Caveglia 32, Bazdarevic 62)
BORDEAUX 2 (Zidane 46, Witschge 70). **Att:** 6,983.

ANGERS 0
MARSEILLE 1 (Futre 63). **Att:** 21,000.

LENS 3 (Omam-Biyik 3, 61, Meyrieu 74)
MONACO 3 (Ikpeba 29, Djorkaeff 71 pen, Klinsmann 90). **Att:** 23,643.

AUXERRE 0
CANNES 0. **Att:** 9,000.

MONTPELLIER 4 (Divert 73, 76, Der Zakarian 78, Carotti 85 pen)
STRASBOURG 0. **Att:** 7,500.

LYON 1 (Maurice 15)
ST ETIENNE 0. **Att:** 33,000.

METZ 1 (Chanlot 70)
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 6,933.

MARTIGUES 3 (Ralaikera 19, Tholot 31, Ferreri 81)
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 3,000.

CAEN 2 (Cauet 3, Nouma 60)
LILLE 3 (Frandsen 77, Andersson 84, 86). **Att:** 14,634.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

MONACO 1 (Scifo 54)
PARIS SG 1 (Ginola 4). **Att:** 8,500.

BORDEAUX 2 (Dugarry 18, Senac 47)
LYON 0. **Att:** 17,914.

MARSEILLE 2 (Germain 11 og, Stojkovic 61 pen)
CAEN 0. **Att:** 18,000.

ST. ETIENNE 1 (Wohlfarth 26)
AUXERRE 0. **Att:** 17,368.

NANTES 2 (Ouedec 19, 34)
MARTIGUES 1 (Chaintreuil 71). **Att:** 11,726.

LE HAVRE 3 (Tiehi 23, Gourouli 67 pen, 76 pen)
CANNES 1 (Sauvaget 48). **Att:** 6,033.

MONTPELLIER 3 (Asanovic 11, Sanchez 41, Divert 88)
METZ 2 (Sechet 24, 49). **Att:** 8,292.

STRASBOURG 2 (Farina 50, Hughes 85)
SOCHAUX 0. **Att:** 11,527.

TOULOUSE 1 (Lada 39)
LENS 1 (R. Boli 9). **Att:** 6,090.

LILLE 1 (Decroix 66)
ANGERS 1 (Zago 69). **Att:** 5,885.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

WEEKEND

PARIS SG 0
LE HAVRE 0. **Att:** 12,000.

AUXERRE 0
BORDEAUX 1 (Zidane 73). **Att:** 13,000.

CANNES 0
MONACO 2 (Dumas 57, Djorkaeff 64). **Att:** 10,000.

LYON 1 (Roche 86)
MARSEILLE 0. **Att:** 22,000.

ANGERS 1 (Lagrange 86)
STRASBOURG 3 (Farina 55, Bouafia 63, 90). **Att:** 5,416.

LENS 1 (R. Boli 12)
NANTES 1 (Quedec 16). **Att:** 19,428.

CAEN 0
MONTPELLIER 0. **Att:** 16,281.

SOCHAUX 0
TOULOUSE 0. **Att:** 3,310.

METZ 1 (Zitelli 90)
LILLE 1 (Decroix 2). **Att:** 6,297.

MARTIUGES 2 (Tholot 10, Collot 82)
ST. ETIENNE 1 (Wohlfarth 58). **Att:** 7,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

TOULOUSE 1 (Kastendeuch 25)
PARIS SG 2 (Ginola 12, Valdo 73). **Att:** 13,514.

BORDEAUX 1 (Paille 21)
MARTIGUES 1 (Collot 6). **Att:** 8,000.

MONACO 1 (Simba 78)
LE HAVRE 1 (Rio 82). **Att:** 1,500.

MARSEILLE 0
AUXERRE 3 (Martins 16, Cocard 77, Laslandes 90). **Att:** 25,000.

MONTPELLIER 2 (Divert 16, Lefevre 77)
ANGERS 1 (Thetis 87 og). **Att:** 5,500.

STRASBOURG 0
METZ 0. **Att:** 15,861.

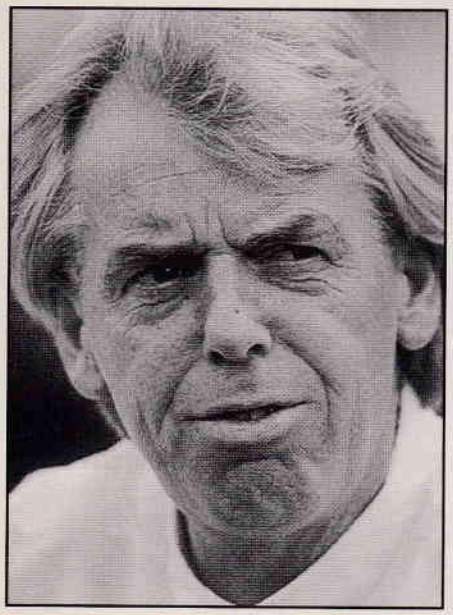
NANTES 0
CANNES 0. **Att:** 15,511.

ST ETIENNE 0
LENS 0. **Att:** 10,048.

CAEN 2 (Huysman 30, Rouissi 55)
SOCHAUX 1 (Caveglia 89). **Att:** 12,831.

LILLE 2 (Garcia 62, Hansen 67)
LYON 1 (Maurice 65). **Att:** 5,000.

HOLLAND.....



Desert post . . . Beenhakker will coach Saudi Arabia.

Cees runs a monster plan

AMERICA, here we come . . . and this is no translation. Those were the exact words IN ENGLISH on the front page of a Dutch magazine, *Voetbal International*.

That did not surprise me. Like *WORLD SOCCER*, *Voetbal International* is a really international soccer magazine.

Within hours of Holland making sure of playing in the 1994 World Cup finals, the FA (KNVB) had "leaked" information over a three-year plan for the future of Dutch football.

Cees Wolzak, new manager of the Dutch FA professional committee, is the man behind it.

And the mind really boggles over the number of items — if that is the right word — it covers.

Coaching apart, it covers marketing, media and communications, looks into the question of mayors and stadiums, better relations with foreign journalists before and after international matches, technical organisation concerning both the World Cup and the European competitions, plus regular contact with the international football world over matters of skill. And on and on.

Perhaps the FA could learn from the Ajax Soccer School, which has produced so many star players, and is an example to all, both professional and amateur.

Boys from the age of seven — yes, seven are coached to play in leagues, going right up to Under-18.

Holland now has a national league for under-16s, and a league for under-14s is a real possibility.

Amazingly some amateur clubs have at least 10 senior and 10 junior teams, all entitled to coaching, and coaches can be found.

So, throughout Holland, boys from the age of seven are taught the basic skills of the game. Not a bad policy.

ERIC NICHOLLS

SPOTLIGHT ON **JARI LITMANEN**

The iceman cometh

VITAL GOALS in front of TV cameras have lifted Jari Litmanen to the spotlight in Dutch football.

And he is being seen as the first international star to emerge from the football backwater of Finland.

Litmanen, in his second season with Ajax, has found his scoring touch, leading the League list as well as netting twice in the Dutch Supercup Final against Feyenoord. His spectacular solo effort against PSV was dubbed by many as Goal of the Year in Holland.

Former skater succeeds with Ajax

Ajax fans, having seen Bergkamp and Vonk leave for Italy, took quickly to the dark-featured "Litti", who looks more Latin than a Finn. But he remains cool.

"I came to Ajax to learn," he says. "Now I know my team-mates better and the particular Ajax style of play, so things are coming easier for me. But there is still some way to go.

"At Ajax, Frank Rijkaard is news — I am still in the second row as far as the media is concerned."

In Finland, however, many people knew for years that he was destined for success.

Jari's father, Olavi, was a midfielder with Reipas Lahti and capped five times. He says: "Jari couldn't help it — football was his life as soon as he could walk."

The boy was very good at ice hockey, too, but at the age of 15 he decided to concentrate solely on football. His decision was made easier by his early mentors, Timo Kautonen and Hannu Hamalainen, both former players with Reipas, and he made his debut for the club at 16.

Reipas, coached by Harri Kampman, finished fourth in 1990 with Litmanen scoring 14 goals from midfield. Alas, the club, once a major power in Finland but now financially all but ruined and in the shadow of Kuusysi, could not hold on to their hottest property.

He went on to play for HJK Helsinki before rejoining coach Kampman at promoted MyPa.

At that stage Litti was raising interest among foreign clubs and he was

In the spotlight . . . Litmanen.

Watch for Leo's lads

ONE of the most travelled coaches from Holland, Leo Beenhakker, is going to be the manager of Saudi Arabia in the World Cup finals.

This is his second World Cup in a row — the last as interim manager of Holland, when things did not go exactly as Beenhakker or the Dutch FA had wished.

He has been around. After his surprise move to Swiss club Grasshopper last season, he was the coach who led Ajax to their last championship; was twice the Dutch manager, and led Real Madrid to three Spanish titles. Don't be surprised if the Saudis do well.

SWITZERLAND.....

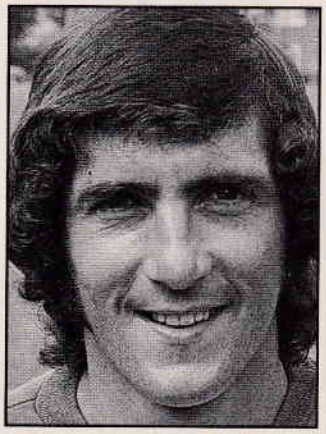
America here we come

THE SWISS are still celebrating the national side's entry into the World Cup finals for the first time in 28 years.

The 4-0 win over Estonia in Zurich clinched the qualification and guarantees the SFV (FA) a rare bonanza.

They will collect at least £2million from the initial three group fixtures, and the players will benefit from record bonuses, which still have to be worked out.

In the League the biggest surprise was the resignation of German team manager Uli Stielike from Xamax Neutchatel, who dropped to tenth place and are in danger of missing the championship play-offs. "I am not the rat leaving a sinking ship," declared Stielike. "But some of the financial backers were against me because I always said what I think."



Xamax again . . . Givens.

Stielike, who was Switzerland's national team chief before Roy Hodgson, is being linked with Real Madrid, for whom he played for several seasons, and neighbouring Atletico.

He cites the reasons for Xamax's poor form as injuries to key players and the sale of internationals Christoph Bonvin (to Sion) and Regis Rothenbuhler (to Servette). No adequate replacements had been hired, and this upset the side's rhythm.

Stielike's successor is former Republic of Ireland international Don Givens, who played for Xamax with Stielike and rejoined the club in the summer as youth coach.

Meanwhile Grasshopper already have qualified for the final pool. The architect of their success is manager Christian Gross, 39, who once played in Germany for Bochum.

His first engagement was with provincial FC Wil, whom he took from the Fourth Division into the play-offs for the First Division.

Gross, nicknamed Kojak because of his bare pate, dissolved the various clans and made Grasshopper into a team.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

busy having trials at such places as Barcelona, Leeds and Neuchatel. He says: "Of course, Barcelona was a fabulous club to visit, but PSV, under Bobby Robson, was the best-organised. The toughest place was Leeds!"

PSV, however, did not take up their option to sign him, leaving the field open for Ajax to pounce.

Ajax previously had gone shopping in Lahti, signing Kuusysi midfielder Petri Tiainen in 1986. Sadly, his career in Holland never took off due to injuries.

Litmanen names two Ajax greats as his idols — Dennis Bergkamp and Frank Rijkaard — but adds: "I don't try to copy anyone. I have scored a few goals, but I think that I can contribute in other ways, too.

"I now speak Dutch, I like Amsterdam and want to honour my two-year contract with Ajax."

PENTTI HIETANEN

PRO-FILE

JARI LITMANEN
AJAX AMSTERDAM AND FINLAND

Born: 20.02.71.

Previous clubs: Reipas Lahti, HJK Helsinki, MyPa.

League debut: 3.5.1987 v Koparit.

International debut: 29.10.89 v Trinidad & Tobago. Won 1-0.

International caps: 30 (3 goals).

HONOURS

Finnish Cup: 1992.
Dutch Supercup: 1993.

SWEDEN

The IFK way to the top

IFK Gothenburg's 14th Swedish championship was their seventh since 1982 and their third under coach Roger Gustafsson.

But the fans are feeling sorry for Norrkoping, who were second for the fourth year in a row.

Gothenburg have the best and largest squad in Sweden, if not the whole of Scandinavia.

Even long-term injuries to defenders Ola Svensson and Joachim Bjorklund and forward Magnus Erlingmark made little difference.

Gustafsson always found adequate replacements, including defender Jonas Olsson and Jesper Blomqvist, a 19-year-old midfielder signed last year from Umea. He was the find of the season, and could be a joker in Tommy Svensson's World Cup squad.

IFK conceded only 17 goals, and Thomas Ravelli kept a clean sheet in 13 matches.

The main difference between the title chasers, however, was Gothenburg's midfield ace, Stefan Rehn. Without his sparkle the team often looked quite ordinary.

The League's top scorers were Halmstad's Hans Bertilsson and Trelleborg's Mats Lilienberg, with 18 each.

Third-placed AIK Stockholm have replaced coach Tommy Soderberg with Hans Backe from Oster, who finished eighth.

He has a tough rebuilding operation ahead, for stalwarts Peter Larsson, Bjorn Kindlund and Vadia Yevtushenko have all left to play in lower divisions.

PENTTI HIETANEN

REP OF IRELAND

Oh, how the money rolls in

Man of the moment . . . McLoughlin.

THE FAI did not waste time in capitalising on qualification for the World Cup Finals. They have arranged four attractive friendlies against other World Cup qualifiers.

On March 23 Norway visit Dublin for the first soccer international under lights at the Rugby Union ground. On April 24 the Republic travel to Rotterdam to play Holland. Colombia visit Dublin on May 20 or 22 and on May 29 the Irish play Germany in Hanover.

And a "farewell" game against England or France is planned for Dublin in June.

Sponsors are queuing up to cash in on the team's success, clinched by Alan McLoughlin's equaliser against Northern Ireland. With gate and TV receipts, plus their share of the final takings in the US, the FAI's total income will be counted in millions.

There is some consolation for Aston Villa's Steve Staunton, out injured since the Republic's game against Spain in October. He was voted Opel/FAI Player of the Year for 1993. Roy Keane took the Young Player award and Brighton's Paul McCarthy was the Under-21 choice.

The managerial merry-go-round continues. Dermot Keely moved from Longford to Dundalk, Jim McLaughlin replaced Pat Devlin at struggling Drogheda United, and Tony O'Doherty and Billy Kinnane have been confirmed as managers of Derry City and Limerick respectively.

Barry O'Connor's father Jimmy is the man who scored the fastest hat-trick in the League of Ireland, with Shelbourne in the 1960s. Now Barry, an Under-21 international, has entered the record books.

Barry played for Drogheda against Dundalk in the County Louth derby on a Friday. Next day he signed for Shelbourne and played for his dad's old club against Shamrock Rovers in the Dublin derby the following afternoon.

SEAN CREEDON

AUSTRIA

Rapid face closure

THE disclosure that the country's joint biggest club, Rapid Vienna, are facing bankruptcy sent a shock throughout Austrian professional football.

The land's largest bank, holding the majority of shares in Rapid, are threatening to suspend any further credit.

Rapid apparently owe £1.2million and unless the money, or at least part of it, is paid, the club may well be wound up.

A court has started an investigation to establish whether illegal financial transactions have plunged the club into the mire and if their officials are actively involved in the affair.

On the playing front Rapid dropped to fifth following a humiliating 3-0 home defeat by the joint leaders, Austria Salzburg.

The top four clubs had created a seven-point gap between themselves and the rest.

Salzburg were the only outfit to reach the third round of a European tournament, the UEFA Cup.

One of Austria's biggest hopes, Harald Cerny, 20, has returned from Bayern Munich and rejoined Admira-Wacker. Cerny, who has more international caps than appearances for Bayern to his name, suffered from the competition for places in Munich.

He is glad now that he did not take up German nationality, as suggested by Bayern's management, and can now continue his career in his homeland.

But Cerny's comeback was ill-fated. Admira lost for the first time at home, 3-0 to FK Austria, and were toppled from the leadership.

Cerny surprised the media with this comment: "The standard of play here is as good as in the German Bundesliga. There is no difference in pace or technique."

ARTHUR ROTMIL

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	15	12	2	1	42	17	26
Club Brugge	15	8	6	1	25	11	22
Seraing	15	7	5	3	23	11	19
Charleroi	15	8	2	5	24	18	18
Antwerp	15	6	6	3	19	16	18
Lommel	15	6	5	4	21	19	17
Ekeren	15	5	6	4	20	19	16
Mechelen	15	4	8	3	20	15	16
Oostend	15	4	8	3	21	19	16
Gent	15	4	8	3	20	21	16
Beveren	15	4	7	4	17	17	15
Standard Liege	15	5	4	6	15	11	14
FC Liege	15	2	8	5	12	23	12
RWD Molenbeek	15	4	2	9	17	26	10
Cercle Bruges	15	3	4	8	22	34	10
Waregem	15	3	3	9	15	29	9
Lierse	15	1	7	7	13	23	9
Genk	15	1	5	9	20	37	7

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Feyenoord	15	12	3	0	33	11	27
Ajax	15	12	2	1	40	7	26
Vitesse Arnhem	14	9	2	3	29	11	20
PSV Eindhoven	14	8	3	3	25	14	19
Roda JC Kerkrade	14	8	3	3	25	15	19
Willem II Tilburg	15	7	3	5	23	16	17
GA Eagles	15	7	2	6	25	20	16
NAC Breda	14	7	1	6	27	22	15
SC Heerenveen	15	5	5	5	15	24	15
FC Twente	14	6	2	6	20	17	14
VVV Venlo	15	4	5	6	16	25	13
FC Utrecht	15	5	3	7	19	30	13
Sparta Rotterdam	14	2	6	6	16	23	10
MVV Maastricht	14	3	4	7	18	29	10
FC Volendam	14	3	2	9	19	28	8
FC Groningen	14	3	2	9	14	33	8
RKC Waalwijk	14	1	4	9	13	29	6
Cambuur	13	0	2	11	7	30	2

LUXEMBOURG

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CS Grevenmacher	12	8	2	2	23	12	18
Avenir Beggen	11	7	2	2	30	10	16
Union	12	8	0	4	19	16	16
F91 Dudelange	12	6	3	3	27	17	15
Jeunesse Esch	12	5	5	3	13	7	15
Aris Bonnevoie	12	3	5	4	16	21	11
CS Petange	12	2	5	5	23	21	9
Fola Esch	12	2	4	6	11	20	8
Red Boys	11	2	2	7	13	30	6
Spora	12	2	0	10	12	33	4

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portadown	11	10	1	0	29	4	31
Glenavon	11	10	1	0	28	9	31
Linfield	11	9	0	2	22	9	27
Crusaders	11	8	2	1	20	6	26
Cliftonville	11	5	2	4	21	14	17
Glentoran	11	5	2	4	19	12	17
Coleraine	11	4	4	3	17	15	16
Distillery	11	4	3	4	17	15	16
Ballymena	11	4	1	6	19	26	13
Bangor	11	4	0	7	13	22	12
Ballyclare	11	2	3	6	10	18	9
Larne	11	2	3	6	14	25	9
Ards	11	2	1	8	13	27	7
Carrick	11	1	4	6	17	32	7
Omagh	11	2	0	9	13	25	6
Newry	11	1	3	7	9	22	6

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shamrock Rov	16	12	2	2	35	10	38
Cork City	16	9	3	4	27	17	30
Shelbourne	16	8	4	4	23	18	28
Galway Utd	16	7	4	5	21	23	25
Bohemians	16	6	6	4	18	11	24
Monaghan Utd	16	7	2	7	23	20	23
Dundalk	16	6	4	6	19	14	22
Derry City	16	4	5	7	12	19	17
St Patrick's Ath	16	3	7	6	18	19	16
Cobh Ramblers	16	4	4	8	16	22	16
Limerick City	16	2	6	8	13	32	12
Drogheda Utd	16	2	5	9	13	33	11

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grasshopper	19	11	5	3	35	14	27
Sion	19	9	8	2	27	12	26
Young Boys	19	8	6	5	33	21	22
Servette	19	7	7	5	32	31	21
Lausanne	19	8	5	6	24	24	21
Lugano	19	7	6	6	21	23	20
Lucerne	19	7	5	7	24	29	19
Aarau	19	7	4	8	20	28	18
FC Zurich	19	5	7	7	23	20	17
Neuchatel	19	4	8	7	24	28	16
Yverdon	19	3	6	10	18	29	12
Kriens	19	2	5	12	14	36	9

DENMARK

Sympathy for the boss

WHILE World Cup gloom descended on fallen giants such as England and France, European champions Denmark took a more philosophical view.

They missed qualifying by the narrowest of margins after their tough 12-match group. One more goal scored would have put them through ahead of the Republic of Ireland after a sloppy 1-0 defeat to Spain in their final game.

But there was no backlash against either the team or manager Richard Moller Nielsen of the kind that swept Graham Taylor and Gerard Houllier out of office.

When the mass circulation newspaper *Ekstra Bladet* held a phone-in inquest, more than 30,000 callers flooded the lines to speak to Moller Nielsen and extend their sympathies. It was an extraordinary reaction for modern football where success is supposed to be everything.

Moller Nielsen will remain in his job, and Michael Laudrup has vowed to continue playing for the national side when they begin defending their European title.

His brother Brian said: "I'm sure the side will remain intact for 1996. We want to prove we are a good team. If anyone had said before the group started that we would lose only one match, concede only two goals and still not qualify, nobody would have believed them.

"It's incredible. Our problem was not scoring enough against the little sides, and that is something we must work on in future.

"Chances must be taken at this level. Spain had one opportunity, took it, and we are out."

The major criticism of the Danish exit was the overly defensive nature of their performance in Seville, looking for the draw that would have brought qualification rather than chasing victory.

They played a 4-5-1 system with only Flemming Povlsen in attack — a tactic which failed.

But Moller Nielsen said: "It was a match where we had to be careful. Of course it's very disappointing, but now we must look to the future. We still have a fine team."

OB wing-back Brian Steen Nielsen at least had the consolation of a lucrative transfer to Turkish side Fenerbahce. Club-mate Thomas Helveg, a tough defender, also left OB to join Serie A strugglers Udinese.

They left the Odense club battling with Silkeborg at the top of the Danish Superliga. Both clubs were on 21 points after 15 matches.

JIM HOLDEN

NORWAY

Incredible!

Olsen's three-year story of success

EVEN national manager Egil Olsen's most loyal supporters would not have expected what was to come three years after his appointment in 1990: World Cup qualification and top place in a six-nation group.

The way Norway won their section astonished football people all over the world, and even the Norwegian FA were taken by surprise when the team clinched their place for US '94.

The success is due to a number of reasons, but the most important is Olsen himself.

He took over from Ingvar Stadheim in a period when the team lacked confidence due to a long string of bad results, introduced a systematic approach, applying his vast knowledge of football theory, combined with the know-how from other successful sports, and added his personal spark.

He simply broke a pattern, installing a belief in his players that they could beat anyone, and as the triumphs came they started to believe that their inferiority complex was unnecessary.

Olsen's self-confidence rubbed off on his men and with a nucleus of experienced players (Bratseth, Thorstvedt and Sorloth) around him he gradually introduced a winning formula.

In his first match in charge they beat the World Cup 1990 heroes Cameroon 6-1, and went undefeated for seven matches, including a 2-1 win against Italy. This was followed by a less successful period and Norway failed to qualify for the European Championship of 1992, but Olsen and his players were fired up for qualifying matches for the World Cup.

New terms were preached to the Norwegian football public: "break-down" and "fieriness of penetration".

Good defensive work combined with an enormous amount of running and movement were the main ingredients.

Oyvind Leonhardsen was one of the youngsters who epitomised what was needed: excellent movement off the ball, and creating chances with running from deep positions.

To balance the team skilful players such as Lars Bohinen, Erik Mykland and Kjetil Rekdal were brought in.

For a period the 3-5-2 system was preferred, but to strengthen the defensive part of the game even more Olsen changed to 4-5-1 in 1991 and he has stuck to this ever since.

Having made a terrific start to the World Cup campaign Olsen decided to exploit certain strengths.

Jostein Flo's height and aerial power, Stig-Inge Bjornebye's left foot, Mykland's technical finesse and Leonhardsen's running were used in a tactical plot to beat opponents.

Olsen has moved Norway into a position where they have played on extremities — a zonal defence more cultivated than before, extreme movement in the attacking play, and extra aggressiveness.

As the team triumphed in match after match against football powers such as England, Holland and Poland, the shock waves were directed through the world establishment.

Unfortunately, the success has led to an exodus of players, and after the final qualifying match against Turkey three players left for English clubs: Roger Nilsen (Sheffield United), Tore Pedersen (Oldham) and Lars Bohinen (Nottingham Forest).

So most of the squad now play abroad but some are still with Norwegian clubs, and all are fighting for places in the squad.

What a tournament it's going to be for the normally calm Norwegians!

SIGURD ODEGAARD

ISRAEL

MACCABI of Tel Aviv broke their own 40-year record by winning their first 11 matches to round off an encouraging year for Israeli football.

The national team achieved the finest result in their history when winning 3-2 in France late in the World Cup qualifying campaign, and Maccabi Haifa reached the second round of the Cup-winners Cup, losing only on penalties to the holders, Parma.

Unfortunately there was an anti-climax after the success in Paris, when the national team lost 3-1 to Finland and so finished bottom of their group. The FA's decision to give coach Shlomo Sharf a new contract to 1996 has been widely criticised, despite that defeat of the French.

Maccabi Haifa do not intend to lose sight of their Tel Aviv namesake, and were four points behind with two games in hand as the 39-match programme got into its stride. Not surprisingly, the big two have the country's top scorers, Alon Mizrahi of Haifa and Itsik Zohar of Tel Aviv, each scoring 12 times.

AVI MELLER

PORTUGAL

Paulo and Paulo in an odd ballet

PAULO SOUSA's bright start with Sporting Lisbon has been tarnished and Paulo Futre's career has taken another remarkable turn.

Sousa, who left Benfica in the summer, went to Italy as a member of the national squad to play the final World Cup qualifier in November . . . taking a solicitor with him.

This odd move fuelled expectations that Sousa is not content with his earnings in his home country, and is seeking lire rather than escudos.

Although he has become a hero at Alvalade Stadium, the fans are now far from pleased at the latest turns of events.

Futre is even less popular with those who pay to keep clubs — and players — in business.

He is now with his fourth club in four countries inside a year, having gone from Atletico Madrid to Benfica, then to Marseille and now to Reggiana. And Parma are said to be showing interest in him!

At least the move should allow Marseille to be able to settle with Benfica. Not all the fee for Futre's transfer to France had been cleared.

Portugal went down bravely in Rome, 1-0, when only a victory would have kept their hopes alive. But they had reasons to be proud of their record, 14 points from ten games, in one of the stronger European groups.

Certainly the supporters seem well satisfied with the coach, Carlos Queiroz.

ALBERTO DA SILVA

MALTA

MALTA'S merited 2-1 win over African Nations Cup finalists Gabon in the quadrangular tournament in Tunisia was their first international victory under new Italian coach Pietro Ghedin — and an overall 20th win for the national side.

After losing 3-0 to Egypt, the Maltese put on an improved display to beat the Gabonese and finish third.

Hamrun midfielder Joe Brincat scored the first goal and Carmel Busuttil added the second, his 18th in a Malta shirt. Brincat could have made it three, but missed a penalty.

Ghedin's novelties included a debut for Hibernian midfielder Michael Spiteri and the return of Sliema striker Hubert Suda. "The way we played

GREECE.....

Manolos celebrates with a record deal

THE next-to-last chapter in a fairy tale for the Greek national team ended with a goal by 20-year-old Nikos Mahlas.

The last chapter will be written next summer, in the United States. That's when Greece will enter the World Cup finals for the first time.

Mahlas, a forward with OFI Crete, headed the goal which gave Greece a 1-0 victory over Russia in the crucial Group Five contest in Athens, in front of 70,000 spectators.

The captain, Tasos Mitropoulos, said: "This is a celebration for Greek soccer. We proved to a lot of people that this team deserves respect.

"All the time we heard remarks about Yugoslavia being missing from our group, and that was the only reason we would qualify. We proved by beating Russia and taking first place that things were not easy."

One of the top Greek players is defender Stelios Manolas, who had not slept a wink for 24 hours because of his wife's sudden illness.

A few days later he signed the biggest deal ever in Greece with League leaders AEK Athens. He will be getting £205,000 this season.

The State decided to give a bonus of £645,000 to the national team to be distributed among players and coaches, with national team coach Alketas Panagoulias deciding who gets what.

"By the end of the World Cup, the players will have taken care of all their financial problems," said Sports Under Secretary George Lianis.

Greece have played 310 games since their first in 1920, winning 89, drawing 72 and losing 149. Since Panagoulias took over in September 1992, the record is four wins, two draws and two losses.

LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

gives me a lot of satisfaction, but we still have to work very hard and can do better," was Ghedin's comment. He's right — Malta then lost 2-0 at home to Scotland in their last World Cup qualifier.

The champions, Floriana, seem to be on another good run. They beat Zurrieq 2-0, scraped a lucky 1-0 win over bottom-placed Mqabba, then had a splendid 3-0 victory over Valletta. After six games, they had still to concede their first goal.

Hibernians quickly bounced to second spot. A 2-0 win over Birkirkara, followed by a 3-0 victory over Zurrieq, put them back in line for the title. Hamrun and Valletta lie joint third, although Valletta may well regret dropping a point in a 0-0 draw against Sliema.

DOMENICO AQUILINA

GEORGE KOTSOLIOS talks to a coach who has surprised the soccer world . . . **ALKETAS PANAGOULIAS of Greece**

Beyond my wildest dreams

GREECE have qualified for the World Cup finals for the first time, under coach Alketas Panagoulis, who led his native country to their first European Championship finals 13 years ago.

Panagoulias, a former player with Aris Salonika, also took the United States squad to the Olympic Games in 1984, and won three titles as coach of Olympiakos.

He is 59, married with two children, and a BA in history and political science from Uppsala College, New Jersey. He also studied at the University of Thessaloniki in Greece and at Loughborough College of Physical Education in England.

WS: *How do you feel about getting to the World Cup?*
AP: My wildest dream has turned into reality. Ever since I was 12, watching the big names of world football on television, I started dreaming of the time when Greece would make it. Sports can make even dreams happen. This triumph has acquired some wider dimensions; amid all the socio-economic problems that our country is going through, a glimmer of hope game to brighten the life of every Greek around the world.

WS: *What are Greece going to do against Germany and Brazil?*
AP: What David did to Goliath! I do not think that being a superior power guarantees victory. The 1994 World Cup will be the moment for the smaller footballing nations. Look what happened in the European qualifiers . . . nobody believed that Greece would be on the same level with Russia. We won first place, proving that the absence of Yugoslavia was not the reason for our success.

WS: *Any teams you'd rather avoid in the first round?*
AP: The African and Asian teams. I would not mind playing against tough European or South American nations.

WS: *Is there a difference between coaching an average player and the best player in the world?*
AP: Even the greatest player needs some kind of advice, some kind of direction, especially when going through difficult times. The coach does not do anything but inspire the player. This is the secret, to make the player give everything he has.

WS: *Who was your mentor?*
AP: Everyone who was talking about football. Even in a game between two amateur teams you can still learn as a coach. But Svetislav Glisovic of Yugoslavia was the first with whom I had a real contact. We were talking football all through the night during my early years in America. Billy Bingham was another who taught me a lot when I was his assistant with the Greek team from 1971-73.

WS: *Who is the world's best coach?*
AP: How do you define the best? I might be a good manager for England and a very bad manager for Morocco. What really matters is the degree of communication. That is why I strongly oppose coaches going to another country. How do they communicate if they do not speak the language? Interpreters cannot convey what you really mean. In Greece the big teams would rather have a big name than a Greek coach. But if we create a certain number of good coaches we could have a clearer picture of what our football can do. Foreign coaches here have not contributed anything constructive.

WS: *How do you explain the drastic drop in attendances in the League?*
AP: Greeks are very lazy. If you give them games live on TV they will not bother to go. TV has to be there but not to that extent. Also the high price clubs of tickets, and violence. It has got out of hand. But look what happened with the national team . . . full stadia everywhere we play.

WS: *Would you give up the Greek job for a career in politics?*
AP: At present I have to finish what I was asked to do. Then I do not know. I have a lot of options which I am keeping open and one of them is to go in to politics.

WS: *Any more soccer ambitions?*
AP: After the World Cup I will be the only man to have reached all the major tournaments with a national team. The Olympics of 1984 with the US, the European Championship with Greece and of course the World Cup. I want to seal my knowledge and experience. I may go back to America, I don't know yet. It depends on what the Greek Federation proposes to me after the finals.

WS: *And a final comment on the current Greek team?*
AP: They have broken every record achieved by their predecessors. We are going to the States with the best defensive record. We are, along with Bolivia, the only unbeaten team during the qualifiers and we lead the unofficial table as the team to have gained most points on average (1.75). I am not saying that we have any super players. What we have is a winner's mentality.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Silkeborg	15	8	5	2	29	16	21
OB Odense	15	8	5	2	21	11	21
FC Copenhagen	15	8	2	5	21	17	18
Brondby	15	5	5	5	25	20	15
Ikast	15	5	5	5	27	24	15
Lyngby	14	4	7	3	14	19	15
AaB Aalborg	15	3	7	5	21	19	13
AGF Aarhus	14	4	3	7	25	24	11
Viborg	15	3	4	8	20	38	10
Naestved	15	3	3	9	22	37	9

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK Athens	12	9	3	0	25	11	30
Panathinaikos	13	9	2	2	30	15	29
Aris Salonika	13	8	2	3	25	14	26
Olympiakos	12	6	6	0	19	6	24
PAOK	13	6	4	3	19	13	22
Iraklis	13	5	4	4	20	13	19
Apollon	13	5	4	4	11	13	19
Athinaikos	13	5	2	6	15	18	17
OFI Crete	12	4	4	4	22	17	16
Doxa Drama	13	4	3	6	13	22	15
Larissa	13	4	3	6	17	23	15
Levadiakos	13	4	3	6	9	18	15
Edessaikos	13	4	3	6	18	23	15
Xanthi	13	3	4	6	21	25	13
Panionios	12	3	3	6	16	17	12
Panahaiki	13	3	3	7	18	26	12
Kalamaria	13	3	3	7	14	22	12
Naoussa	13	2	0	11	19	38	6

ISRAEL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mac Tel Aviv	11	11	0	0	33	4	33
Mac Haifa	11	9	2	0	27	8	29
Hap Beersheba	11	7	1	3	16	9	22
Betar Jerusalem	11	5	3	3	25	15	18
Bnei Yehuda	11	4	3	4	16	15	15
Mac Netanya	11	4	2	5	23	22	14
Hap Holon	11	4	2	5	14	24	14
Hap Petah Tikva	11	3	4	4	13	15	13
Mac Herzliya	11	3	4	4	11	13	13
Hap Tel Aviv	11	4	0	7	14	22	12
Ironi Ashdod	11	3	2	6	12	12	11
Hap Kfar Sava	11	2	3	6	10	19	9
Hap Haifa	11	2	3	6	10	32	9
Mac Petah Tikva	11	1	1	9	8	22	4

MALTA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Floriana	6	5	1	0	10	0	11
Hibernians	6	4	2	0	9	1	10
Hamrun	6	3	3	0	11	2	9
Valletta	6	4	1	1	12	6	0
St Andrew's	6	3	0	3	9	11	6
Birkirkara	6	2	0	4	4	9	4
Zurrieq	6	2	0	4	4	11	4
Rabat Ajax	6	0	3	3	5	11	3
Sliema Wand	6	1	1	4	2	8	3
Mqabba	6	0	1	5	0	7	1

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Benfica	11	7	3	1	29	14	17
Boavista	10	7	1	2	20	9	15
FC Porto	10	6	3	1	15	5	15
Sporting	10	7	1	2	18	7	15
Guimaraes	11	5	3	3	9	6	13
Maritimo	11	5	3	3	17	15	13
Pacos Ferreira	11	4	4	3	11	9	12
Gil Vicente	11	5	2	4	14	17	12
Amadora	11	3	4	4	12	12	10
Belenenses	11	4	1	6	10	15	9
Beira-Mar	11	4	1	6	9	9	9
Salgueiros	11	4	1	6	11	18	9
Famalicao	11	4	1	6	8	18	9
Braga	11	2	4	5	8	9	8
Farense	11	4	0	7	14	23	8
Estoril	10	2	3	5	7	12	7
Setubal	11	2	2	7	12	18	6
Uniao	9	2	1	6	9	15	5

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fenerbahce	12	7	5	0	26	12	26
Galatasaray	11	8	2	1	24	11	26
Genclerbirligi	12	6	3	3	28	18	21
Samsunspor	12	5	5	2	16	13	20
Kocaelispor	11	6	2	3	20	18	20
Besiktas	11	5	4	2	21	9	19
Kayserispor	12	5	3	4	12	15	18
Trabzonspor	11	4	4	3	18	15	16
Karsiyaka	12	4	2	6	8	12	14
Bursaspor	12	3	4	5	12	15	13
Gaziantepsor	11	3	3	5	21	22	12
Ankaragucu	12	3	3	6	16	22	12
Sariyer	12	3	3	6	9	16	12
Zeytinburnuspor	12	2	4	6	7	16	10
DC Karabukspor	11	1	4	6	9	23	7
Altay	12	1	3	8	10	20	6

WORLD PRESS

THIS month's selection includes editorials on the rivalry between English and German clubs, Liverpool's alarming decline, Paris SG striker Vincent Guerin and the All-Ireland World Cup dog-fight in Belfast.

Rivals . . . England's Norwich and Germany's Bayern in UEFA Cup action.

KICKER-SPORTMAGAZIN (GERMANY)

THE Champions League has not enjoyed the popularity in Germany that it deserves. The reasons are firstly the formula, which has robbed the competition of its old established knock-out system, and secondly because so far no German team had reached the conclusive stage.

Now Werder Bremen will undoubtedly raise interest and make a fortune in the process. By contrast the much bigger and richer Bayern Munich are facing bleak prospects.

The erstwhile standard-bearers of German football fell to the English, the No. 1 bogey of the Germans.

Yet English football is traditionally looked down on in our country. It is decried as unimaginative and well-nigh primitive, while the hoary old tale of "kick and rush" is being trotted out at every opportunity, with joyous conviction.

Of course, duels with the English are not for connoisseurs and certainly Norwich City's display in Munich's Olympic Stadium was not an eye feast. However, the British pros demonstrate, above all in European tests, that their workmanlike football does produce results.

Despite the five-year ban no other FA in Europe has won as many trophies as the English, while in 45 engagements between our two countries the Brits triumphed 31 times.

SUNDAY PEOPLE (IRELAND)

BILLY BINGHAM has been accused of being a "rabble rouser" and worse following the World Cup game in Belfast.

Bingham has been lashed because, after Northern Ireland's goal, he turned to the home fans calling for more support.

It was the natural thing to do.

And if Jack Charlton had done the same at Lansdowne Road during any game he'd have been acclaimed, make no mistake.

OK, the Northern Ireland supporters were, at the time, chanting "There's only one team in Ireland."

But didn't Republic fans write that script in Dublin in March when the Republic won 3-0?

— Frank Johnstone

FRANCE FOOTBALL

"WHAT astonishes me is that people are astonished!" The statement is spontaneous. Since the time he first played in the Premier Division, Vincent Guerin understands less and less how at his age — "still not 28," — public and Press never stop discovering him.

People launch themselves on him, just for a few goals . . . "I know one thing; that my abilities today are the same as they have been for a long time."

Don't go looking for a trace of pretentiousness in such a statement. It isn't the house style, people will tell you, and they'd be right. Vincent is sure of his talent, convinced of his worth, though he is modest, calm and not remotely envious.

"I like to present the image of a chap who is correct and sympathetic."

And honest; towards others and himself. "That's right, I've never envied anybody. Before I was just frustrated. Frustrated to see I was the only one to believe in myself, and to be excluded from a great career."

He doesn't deny that "life can be beautiful provided one is patient. It's life that decides, you just have to be able to wait."

Vincent Guerin never lost hope. "Frankly, do I look like someone who despairs?"

With his look of a healthy lad nourished by fresh milk, the Parisian exudes health and good humour.

"The ball is my motor. For the moment I've won only two French Cups, one European Under 21 title, and I've only one full cap. I've always believed in myself, always known I had the potential to succeed at the highest level. Everything that has happened I knew would happen."

From Brest to Paris Saint Germain, passing through Montpellier, Vincent Guerin has gone through every kind of experience.

A BOLA (PORTUGAL)

THE defeat of Liverpool in the Siberian evening of Newcastle was a severe moment in the life of the great Merseyside club.

Kevin Keegan and Terry McDermott, now in command at Newcastle, who were among the greatest at Liverpool, may well have cried at the spectacle of their own team crushing the old reds.

The great European champions of yesterday had no answer for so simple a proposition — that of playing football.

Andy Cole, the black arrow, did everything he wanted against the Liverpool defence. But at the other extreme of the pitch, Ian Rush was dying bit by bit, far, so far away from his old times of unforgettable glory.

— Astregildo Silva

HEADLINES

"America, here we come" — *Voetbal International* celebrates Holland's World Cup qualification with this front-page headline . . . in English!

"That's yer allotment" — *The Sun* announces Graham "Turnip" Taylor's resignation in its own, inimitable fashion.

"Now that's enough!" — *France Football's* front-page assessment of the shock Bulgarian victory in Paris, accompanied by a picture of Eric Cantona with his head in his hands.

"Hotshot Fernando is a Real Irish Hierro" — *The Irish Independent* acknowledges the part Real Madrid's Fernando Hierro played in helping the Republic of Ireland qualify for the World Cup finals.

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (HOLLAND)

ADRI VAN TIGGELEN is not a loser. He may be 36, but he is not finished.

It is true he has had words with his manager, Aad de Mos, about his future with PSV.

But, as De Mos considers his team-building for the future, and privately considers the blunders that have been made in the Philips city of Eindhoven, Van Tiggelen himself has his own opinion.

He declared it was time for him to stop as a Dutch international defender. But for PSV, that is another story. And he is supported in that view by the PSV doctor, Van den Hoogenband, who says that Van Tiggelen is fit enough, and it is for the coaching staff to decide who plays in the team.

Says Van Tiggelen: "I know, it has not been easy for me. I had the kind of knocks I could have done without.

"When I tried to make my comeback it was ridiculous. But things have got better and all I can hope is that the manager sees it my way."

TURKEY.....

Milne's future may be in Japan

BESIKTAS coach Gordon Milne has left after seven years — a record for a foreigner in Turkey.

Although Milne (above) had great success, winning the title four times and the Cup twice, this did not satisfy everybody.

Last season's positions, runners-up to Galatasaray in both events, remain a sore point, as does the fact that Besiktas have gone out of European competition at the first attempt in six of Milne's seven seasons.

Now, at 55, he says: "I have to think fo the future. If I'm no longer wanted here, why should I stay?"

He is reported to favour going to a Japanese club, but could be considering an offer to join the Manchester United staff.

Any club taking him will have to pay a high price for his expertise. Milne was thought to be on around £200,000 a year at Besiktas, plus bonuses, rent-free house and luxury car — but he has returned £100,000 to the club, who had paid him at the start of the season. Ironically, his last game in charge was a 1-0 defeat . . . by Galatasaray.

Fenerbahce, early-season leaders in the title chase, have signed two internationals from Denmark — Odense midfielder Nielsen and libero Ocheguwu, a Nigerian, from Brondby.

They also have transferred the controversial Tanju Colak to a Second Division club, Istanbulspor. Tanju, who was signed from Galatasaray for a record fee three years ago, is now with his third club in the city.

He was leading League scorer last season, but became surplus to Fenerbahce's requirements.

The national team ended their World Cup campaign with two heartening victories, both by 2-1. The defeat of Poland was a decisive factor in the final placings for US '94, and it was followed by Norway's first defeat in the event..

New coach Fatih Terim has some good youngsters coming up, as well. The Under-21s beat Poland 1-0 and Norway 3-1.

HASAN CEMALI

SLOVAKIA.....

WITH the World Cup campaign of the combined team over, Jozsef Venglos and the SFZ, the Slovak Football Association, must work even harder.

A friendly is planned with Greece in the spring and feelers are being put out for other games before the European Championship qualifying groups begin.

Slovakia's chances will very much depend on a favourable draw. Resources are tight and there will be little quality in depth about the squad.

Early European exits by Slovan, Dunajska Streda and FC Kosice proved the point but FA XI matches with Lithuania and Slovenia, a draw and a win, show that when players such as Dubovsky can be added to the selection, Slovakia should be at least as strong as the best Baltic side.

Venglos convened the first ever National Conference of Slovak Coaches in Bratislava and there should be little problem of all pulling together. He will be assisted by former FC St Pauli player Jan Kocian, in his first coaching post, but their greater concern will be the new Slovak League.

Only Inter and DAC look to have any chance of challenging Slovan, who finished the first half of the season seven points ahead, having lost only once, and reached the Cup final, so European competition in 1994-95 again looks assured.

In the New Year the Bratislava "Blues" face Tatran Presov in the final. Presov, now seventh, accounted for Inter in a hotly disputed semi final. Presov went two up in the Inter Stadium but finally lost 4-2 in front of a crowd far from amused by the award of two penalties to the visitors.

A second half rally seemed to have been enough for Inter in Presov, but Tatran had equalised by half time of the second leg and an 85th-minute goal by their ex-Lokomotive Moscow midfielder Gallagberov put them through.

HUNGARY.....

Sir Stanley pays a visit

AS SNOW disrupted the closing rounds of the autumn season there was still something to celebrate — Sir Stanley Matthews (below) was the star guest at a Hungarian FA banquet.

There were 600 people at the Budapest Congress Centre to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the 6-3 win over England at Wembley.

Vac, runners-up in the last two seasons, had six successive wins to overtake Ferencvaros (leaders for all of the first 18 rounds) and total 22 points from 14 games. They lead Fradi (19-13), promoted Debrecen VSC (19-14) and Bekescsaba (20-14).

The Ferencvaros-Debrecen clash was snowed off just after Lajos Detari ended his loan period by moving from Fradi to Genoa.

The only defeat for Vac was a strange 3-0 collapse at Ujpest, the first of three late goals being scored by Istvan Kozma, the former Liverpool and Dunfermline player. He was the equal of his one-time national team colleague, Detari, among those players returning from abroad for this season.

Against Fradi, Attila Belvon scored a 53rd-minute goal in a 1-0 home win and Kozma said: "Somehow, I knew before the game that we would win, and I said this to everybody in the dressing-room! But sometimes we have played well and lost. Concentration is the problem.

"There are a lot of differences from when I left after the 1988-89 season. Now clubs haven't any money. Companies, if they put money into football, are taxed on it so nobody wants to sponsor football. The best young players go abroad, but this brings real money for a club.

"The football here now does have strong, technical players; but just having technical players is seen to be not good for a team. For example, Debrecen have good young ones, about 60 or 70 per cent, and some experienced ones. Tamas Sandor is the best young player in the league."

Kozma has cause to remember Sandor, leading scorer with ten goals in 14 matches. He scored twice but missed a penalty in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Ujpest.

Ferencvaros had one other 1-0 defeat, at Bekescsaba, and, although Laszlo Wukovics scored a hat-trick in the 3-0 win over Csepel, their form and attendances have slipped at home after elimination in Europe.

Vac, by contrast, appear to have got over their embarrassment of falling to Apollon of Cyprus.

MTK reached the second round of the UEFA Cup only for former Ujpest player Denes Eszenyi to score a hat-trick in the first leg of Mechelen's 6-1 aggregate success.

MTK were then in bottom position and still are. Teams not far above them are becoming desperate, too. Pecs manager Nandor Koller resigned — ex-international Antal Roth replaced him — and finally, in the 12th round, Ferenc Meszaros, back from Belgium, reappeared.

BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

CZECH REPUBLIC.....

INTERNATIONAL football for the Czechs came to an end in the form it had been known for 73 years and three months when the so-called Representation of Czechs and Slovaks failed to qualify for US '94.

The last qualifying game, against Belgium in Brussels, had to be won if Vaclac Jezek's team were to qualify.

But they went without the goal they needed and were left to rue the loss of a point in Cyprus, and to wonder what would have happened if Jezek had been in charge from the outset.

In the new Czech league there is no surprise at Sparta's leading the field as half way approached. Home and away defeats to Anderlecht in the Champions Cup were a double disappointment, and now they have only the Championship and Czech Cup on which to concentrate.

A week before the break they received another shock, at home this time, when Viktoria Zizkov took a point while Slavia were winning at Vitkovice to close the gap to two.

Their gates also have been poor, only 47,201 seeing the first seven home games, whereas FC Brno have had 72,246 for six which should please FC's sponsor, Boby, though a modest 11th placing probably does not.

Dukla's plight looks sealed. Two draws and 12 defeats from the first 14 games leave the former champions five points behind, and with little chance of anything but relegation to Division Two in 1994-95.

BOB VAUGHAN

POLAND.....

New coach plans to quit

THE powers of Polish football are now sifting through the possibles seeking the job of national coach.

Andrzej Streljau resigned with two qualifying games in the World Cup still to go, and was replaced by his assistant, Leslaw Cmikiewicz.

His first game was a 3-0 home defeat by Norway, whereupon he tried to resign. The chairman of the Polish FA, Kazimierz Gorski, persuaded him to stay, but Holland beat the Poles 3-1 in the final game and Cmikiewicz repeated that he did not want the job. Now various hopefuls are wondering what happens next.

Poland had had high hopes of going to the United States next year, but lost their last five matches, scoring only two goals. The game against the Dutch in Poznan was virtually an away fixture, with all but 2,000 of the 17,000 tickets being sold to Dutch followers.

Gornik Zabrze led the table after the first half of the season, four points ahead of GKS Katowice. A 2-1 win over Legia Warsaw, in sub-zero temperatures, sent Gornik into the winter break with a warm glow.

DARIUSZ KUROWSKI

RUSSIA

Squad split as World Cup nears

DELIGHT at qualification for the World Cup has been tempered by disputes between the coach, Pavel Sadyrin, and his players.

Their one defeat, by Greece in the tenth and last match, meant that Russia had to be satisfied with second place, and Sadyrin blamed the result on poor performances by his foreign-based men such as Shalimov, Yuran and Kiryakov.

The reply was prompt, unexpected and sharp — the players criticised the coach's style and methods.

This situation does not bode well for events in the US, where the Russians will oppose teams much more powerful than Iceland, Hungary and Luxembourg.

There is continuing controversy over certain domestic matters, too, although the championship is over.

The game between Sochi Zhemchizhina and Kamaz was vital to both, Sochi because they needed to win in order to avoid relegation, and Kamaz because Victor Panchenko needed three goals to reach 21 and top the scoring list.

Sochi won 5-4, and Panchenko scored the three he needed . . . which led to howls of derision across the country.

"If we do not have evidence that a game is fixed, what can we do?" said the Russian FA.

The 1-1 draw between Spartak and Dynamo Moscow, which gave the latter third place and a UEFA Cup spot, also caused discussion.

Tekstilshchik Kamyshin were surprise qualifiers for the same competition by ending fourth, and Rotor Volgagrad earned the other UEFA place when finishing second, 11 points behind Spartak.

Konstantin Beskov, now 73, has been invited to become Dynamo's manager. He played on the club's celebrated visit to Britain in 1945, and after a distinguished active career coached Dynamo, Spartak and the national squad.

VICTOR GUSEV

BULGARIA

EUROPEAN disappointments, particularly Levski's after putting out Rangers in round one, are all forgotten. So are the various club-FA disputes.

All because of the last-minute goal to take a point from the French and qualify for World Cup '94.

For only the second time since 1974 the Bulgars will be represented, and it is not something anyone would have bet a leva on last Spring, when in the course of two weeks the French won in the Prater and the Austrians comfortably saw of a Bulgarian team at odds with themselves and the coach.

Now two-goal Emil Kostadinov and provider Hristo Stoitchkov head for America, leaving in their wake a shocked FFF and a dismissed national trainer, Gerard Houllier.

Why the Bulgarians were so underestimated is difficult to ascertain, but who draws them in the first round of the finals should beware!

Whether manager Penev's squad will travel as well as they did to Paris, or as badly as they did to Stockholm and Vienna, will be the question, and there also remains the matter of moulding the highly-paid foreign stars together with the home-based players to form a team.

Meanwhile domestic football comes to the end of the first half of the season with Levski the Winter King, eight points ahead of CSKA after a 5-0 thrashing of Dobrudja, who went quietly and now stand but two points above a relegation spot.

At the same time CSKA were losing rather surprisingly at promoted Chumen to leave themselves too much leeway to make up.

A UEFA Cup place nevertheless looks certain for CSKA, who lead Slavia by four points.

ROMANIA

CHAMPIONS Steaua were five points ahead of eternal rivals Dinamo at the halfway mark.

Now that there is no Champions Cup interest and Steaua have only domestic football on which to concentrate, they are unlikely to slip up.

"U" Craiova keep up the challenge for a UEFA Cup place, as do Inter Sibiu, neither with much chance of catching the leaders.

Generally, however, the better provincial sides are improving now that they do not have to release their best players to the army or police clubs, Steaua and Dinamo, and providing they can obtain local sponsorship.

The programme, however, has taken a back seat to the euphoria over qualification for World Cup '94.

A draw would have sufficed in Cardiff but a win capped good form in the group since the debacle in Kocise against the RCS, which put four teams back in contention.

Had Anghel Iordanescu been in charge from the start there may not have been so much nail-biting, but now he has the task of forming a squad to do better than in Italy four years ago.

That will not be easy, given that so many of the starting line-up play abroad, and release for friendlies will be hard to obtain as title chases in Italy, Germany and Spain are mounted.

While good income can be expected from the US trip, resources are limited at present and the FRF are sensitive on financial issues, especially after certain allegations over approaches to referees.

BOB VAUGHAN

UKRAINE

GRIGORY SURKIS, president of joint stock company Kiev Dynamo, possibly will find the time during the long winter break to hear his favourite *Queen* song, *We Are The Champions*.

Dynamo won the first half of the championship and were the only team to show much stability. They were unbeaten in their 17 League matches and will have the chance to extend their run when play resumes. Good results of some modest provincial clubs, such as Veres, Temp and Krivbas, were encouraging, too.

Veres were last in the previous championship and remained in the Premier League thanks only to the enlargement from 16 clubs to 18. The main reason for their present success is good recruitment during the transfer period. Veres will be the major opponents for Dnepr, Shakhtor and Cherno-morets in the race to play in the UEFA Cup.

Metallurg and Metallist, formerly in the Soviet Supreme League, are in deep crisis. Metallurg started badly, and fired their Latvian coach Scredelis, but that could not get them off the bottom. Metallist are little better.

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY

LATVIA

SKONTO RIGA won the Latvian championship by an eight-point margin, but their 9-0 aggregate defeat by Moscow Spartak in the Champions Cup emphasised the gap between standards in the two countries.

The 18-match programme brought Skonto 17 wins and one defeat, against Auseklis. They averaged 3.5 goals a game and conceded only seven, with Alexander Eliseev scoring 20.

At the other end of the table, Gauia Valmiera took only one point and conceded 74 goals, a record 11 of them away to Skonto.

RAF won the Cup, beating Pardaugava by the only goal in the final.

The national team finished sixth out of seven in Group Three of the World Cup qualifying competition, taking five points — all from draws — in their 12 matches.

Their 0-0 results at home to Denmark and then to Spain could have had a vital effect on the overall placings.

Team manager Ianis Gilis used 30 players, several of them based abroad, and blamed "lack of stability" for the lowly placing. Only Albania finished below the Latvians.

BALTIC STATES

LEADING clubs in the Baltic region have founded a new eight-club League, with the aim of improving standards during a period when there is little international competition.

The event is being run on the lines of the European Champions League, with two groups of four clubs and the top two in each going on to the semi-finals. The final will be at a neutral venue some time next summer.

The eight entrants, chosen at a meeting chaired by Mart Tarmak of the Estonian Football Federation, comprise three from Lithuania, two from Latvia, and one each from Russia, Byelorussia and Estonia.

Lithuania's representatives are Ekranas and Zalgiris from Vilnius and Sirijus from Klaipeda. The Latvians are Olimpia and Skonto from Riga, Baltica Kaliningrad represent Russia, Minsk Dinamo come from Byelorussia, and Flora Tallinn are the Estonian entry.

The first two matches were in Group B, with Skonto beating Sirjius 3-1 and Minsk Dinamo — thought to be the likely winners — defeating Flora by the only goal. Zalgiris won 2-0 away to Olimpia in Group A.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	14	12	1	1	36	6	37
CSKA	14	8	2	4	31	12	26
Botev	14	7	3	4	26	17	24
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	14	7	1	6	20	18	22
Slavia	14	6	4	4	16	14	22
Shumen	14	6	3	5	27	22	21
Lokomotiv Sofia	14	6	3	5	17	14	21
Lok GO	14	6	3	5	17	19	21
Etur	14	5	5	4	22	17	20
Dobrudja	14	5	3	6	21	23	18
Chernomorets	14	4	3	7	21	26	15
Pirin	14	3	4	7	12	21	13
Beroe	14	3	4	7	12	21	13
Spartak	14	3	2	9	12	35	11
Chemo More	14	2	3	9	11	36	9

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sparta Prague	14	9	4	1	35	10	22
Ceske Budejovice	14	8	5	1	17	10	21
Slavia Prague	13	8	3	2	26	13	19
Banik Ostrava	14	7	4	3	24	11	18
Petra Dmovice	14	7	3	4	22	18	17
Slovan Liberec	14	6	5	3	16	13	17
Svit Zlin	14	6	3	5	17	13	15
Union Cheb	14	6	2	6	13	19	14
Viktoria Plzen	14	5	3	6	17	19	13
Viktoria Zizkov	13	4	4	5	18	11	12
FC Boby Brno	13	5	2	6	21	20	12
Sigma Olomouc	14	5	2	7	18	18	12
Bohemians	13	5	2	6	16	24	12
Hradec Kralove	14	2	3	9	10	23	7
FC Vitkovice	14	2	3	9	14	31	7
Dukla Prague	14	0	2	12	10	41	2

LATVIA — *Final table*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Skonto Riga	18	17	0	1	63	7	34
Olimpia Riga	18	12	2	4	31	17	26
RAF Jelgava	18	12	2	4	34	11	26
Dardaugava Riga	18	10	4	4	29	13	24
Auseklis Daugav	18	7	5	6	22	17	19
Vidus Riga	18	6	7	5	19	13	19
Olimpia Liepaia	18	3	6	9	24	46	12
FC DAG Riga	18	3	4	11	15	29	10
Vajrogs Rezekne	18	3	3	12	12	36	9
Gauia Valmiera	18	0	1	18	14	74	1

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vac	15	9	5	1	34	14	23
Bekescsaba	15	10	2	3	37	12	22
Ferencvaros	14	8	3	3	26	13	19
Debrecen	14	8	3	3	23	16	19
Kispest	15	7	4	4	33	19	18
Raba	15	7	4	4	25	16	18
Csepel	15	7	4	4	21	27	18
Ujpest	14	5	3	6	19	17	13
Videoton	15	4	5	6	18	24	13
Siofok	15	4	5	6	18	26	13
Sopron	15	4	4	7	22	30	12
Pecs	15	3	6	6	14	23	12
Vasas	15	4	3	8	19	23	11
MTK	15	2	5	8	16	32	9
BVSC	14	2	5	7	12	30	9
Haladas	15	2	3	10	14	29	7

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik Zabrze	17	9	7	1	26	16	25
GKS Katowice	17	8	5	4	24	18	21
LKS Lodz*	17	9	5	3	29	13	20
Lech Poznan	17	8	4	5	22	15	20
Pogon Szezecin	17	4	12	1	19	13	20
Ruch Chorzow	17	8	4	5	24	20	20
Legia Warsaw	17	7	8	2	29	15	19
Hutnik Krakow	17	6	7	4	17	11	19
Zaglebie Lubin	17	6	7	4	23	23	19
Warta Poznan	17	6	5	6	16	16	17
Widzew Lodz	17	5	7	5	21	24	17
TM Pniewy	17	4	5	8	21	20	13
Stal Stalowa Wola	17	3	7	7	10	17	13
Zawisza Bydgoszcz	17	3	6	8	19	31	12
Wisla Krakow*	17	3	8	6	19	22	11
Stal Mielec	17	3	5	9	15	21	11
Siarka Tarnobrzeg	17	3	1	10	11	27	10
Polonia Warsaw	17	2	6	9	14	30	10

** 3 pts deducted*

ROMANIA

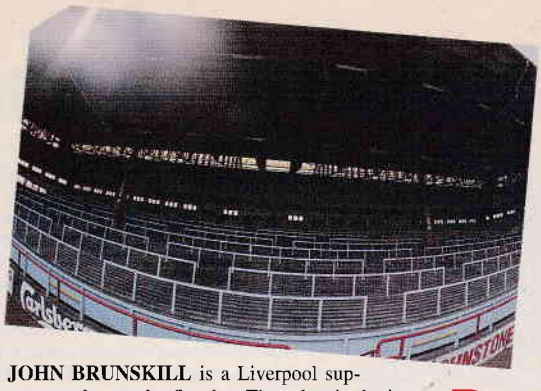
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua Bucharest	16	11	3	2	27	7	25
Dinamo Bucharest	16	9	2	5	31	18	20
Univ. Craiova	16	8	3	5	33	25	19
Inter Sibiu	16	8	3	5	25	21	19
Farul Constanta	16	8	2	6	24	18	18
Petrolul Ploiesti	16	8	2	6	16	14	18
UT Arad	16	7	4	5	17	20	18
Progresul	16	8	1	7	28	20	17
DUa Braila	16	6	4	6	17	16	16
Gloria Bistrita	16	7	2	7	23	24	16
FC Brasov	16	6	3	7	18	17	15
Univ. Cluj	16	4	5	7	20	24	13
Electro. Craiova	16	5	3	8	13	17	13
Rapid Bucharest	16	5	3	8	14	19	13
Spt Studentesc	16	5	3	8	15	23	13
Otelul Galati	16	5	2	9	14	24	12
Ceahlaul	16	4	4	8	12	25	12
Poli Timisoara	16	5	1	10	16	31	11

SLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovan Bratislava	16	13	2	1	37	14	28
Inter Bratislava	16	10	1	5	36	22	21
Dunajska Streda	16	8	4	4	31	19	20
FC Kosice	16	6	4	6	18	20	16
SK Zilina	16	5	5	6	20	19	15
DB Bystrica	16	6	3	7	20	24	15
Tatran Presov	16	5	5	6	19	23	15
Chemlon	16	4	6	6	16	20	14
Spartak Trnava	16	4	6	6	13	19	14
Lok. Kosice	16	4	4	8	15	33	12
FC Nitra	16	5	1	10	18	21	11
Banik Prievidza	16	4	3	9	16	27	11

INSIDE OUT

COMPILED BY
DAVID PROLE AND
JOHN KELLY



Rough at the Kop

JOHN BRUNSKILL is a Liverpool supporter who works Sunday-Thursday inclusive, starting at 3pm. And he supports Liverpool.

He tells us: "I have a family and can't afford to go to away games. But I don't think supporters like me have been treated fairly this season over the club's home fixtures."

We're inclined to agree with him. Liverpool's Premiership schedule this season involved only SIX home games on the 20 Saturdays between August 14 and the end of 1993, and the seventh is not due until January 22.

In between playing their quota of away matches, they switched home games to Sunday on September 12 and November 28, because of TV demands.

September 4, October 9 and November 13 were blank because of England's World Cup qualifiers,and Christmas Day will fall on a Saturday.

"I appreciate that the national team should come first," says Mr Brunskill.

"But surely we could find enough players for the San Marino game without having to knock out the entire Premier fixture list.

"I couldn't go to the two home Coca-Cola Cup games because they were played on midweek evenings. So I've only seen my team six times at Anfield, plus the derby match at Goodison.

"Do they care that they are losing my cash and I am losing my enjoyment? Probably not. Television and the international set-up have got the game — and fans like me — by the neck."

There's only one consolation for Mr Brunskill. Liverpool are not in Europe this season . . . or he could have missed a few more games.

Magpie mania

NEWCASTLE UNITED'S storming start to their first Premiership campaign has thrown up an unexpected bonus — a new job in one of the country's worst unemployment blackspots.

So many supporters are turning up to watch Kevin Keegan's Magpies in training, that the club are about to appoint a full-time official to keep the fans happy at their training centre.

With crowds approaching 3,000 at many training sessions, a Liason Officer is needed to ensure that fans and players mix in an organised way.

"When a club gets so much attention it can react in one of two ways," said Keegan (above). "It can either accept it or consider it a problem.

"We plan to open our doors and say 'come in, don't abuse anything.' We cannot please everyone all of the time, but we can try."

Far too tacky

STILL on the England tack: were we alone in feeling faintly sick at the *BBC TV* trailers for their coverage of San Marino-England?

The slowed-down, stylised action was bad enough, but to play The Impossible Dream over it was really yuck-inducing.

To fight the unbeatable foe . . . San Marino? Do us a favour, Beeb. Stick to what you do well and forget these spurious inducements.

And weren't the papers boring during the Big Build-Up to The Date with Destiny, or Armageddon, or whatever you or they like to call it?

With no Premiership matches on the previous weekend, we were "treated" to day after day of previews to the games, with opinions from everybody who could possibly be called anybody.

Desperate hacks sought for a new angle, snappers posed players in all sorts of unlikely situations.

Radio was as bad, if not worse: turgid quotes from managers and players are awful enough in print, but deepen in banality over the air.

The whole overblown exercise made at least one regular reader turn to the political commentaries in despair. That shows how bad it was.

Radio Rovers

BLACKBURN ROVERS are the first football club in Britain to set up their own radio station.

Radio Rovers will broadcast for six hours every Saturday, to a 10-mile radius around Ewood Park, to keep fans up to date with all the latest news and views.

If you can't beat 'em . . .

A DANISH fan, disgusted by his country's failure to reach US '94, has applied for temporary citizenship in neighbouring Norway . . . where supporters are still celebrating their team's surprise qualification.

England in the dock

IT seems that even England's judiciary are aware of how bad the England side have become.

Old Bailey judge Mr Justice Blofeld banned a spy trial jury from watching TV news broadcasts, but smilingly told them: "You can watch the San Marino-England international if you wish . . . but it is not compulsory."

A question of waste

A MINION from ***A Question of Sport*** phoned us from Manchester to ask if Monaco were still involved in the Champions Cup.

Perhaps *QoS* should spend some of the *BBC's* licence fee on a subscription to ***WORLD SOCCER***, or a pair of scissors, a pot of paste and a daily paper.

Tough on Terry

BACK to Anfield, for the anniversary of a remarkable feat. The last time a visiting player scored a hat-trick against Liverpool in a competitive fixture was on January 13, 1962, when Terry Allcock did so for Norwich in a Second Division match.

Poor Allcock was on the losing side as well — Liverpool won 5-4.

Since then more than 700 teams have gone there but no player has managed more than two goals. It's one of soccer's strangest records.

A Century of World Football

PART FOUR

1958-70

BY MIKE LANGLEY

Genius in 1958 . . . Pele scores Brazil's third goal against Sweden.

Simply the best

But Pele picks France '58

JUST FONTAINE was a stocky French Moroccan full of vitality, pace, predatory instinct and crisp power in either foot.

Fontaine scored 13 goals in the World Cup finals of 1958, a time of grainy black-and-white TV, languid commentators, 12-inch screens and cameramen who often missed the best bits.

To a viewing generation raised on freeze-frames, vivid colour, close-ups, dug-out mikes, tunnel shots and instant replays, Fontaine seems as long ago and as far away as the stars of silent movies.

Yet his record in Sweden has withstood eight successive assaults by the world's hottest shots, only two of whom came even close: Eusebio (Portugal) with nine goals in England in 1966 and, four years later, Gerd Muller (West Germany) with 10 in Mexico.

Mario Kempes, Paulo Rossi, Gary Lineker and Salvatore Schillaci — top scorers in each of the last four World Cups — all finished on only six apiece. So it's not reckless to think Fontaine's record may stand for all time.

That's the measure of his importance and why there is no apology for opening a review of a Brazil-dominated era with a Frenchman many may have forgotten or never seen — because successive fractures of Fontaine's left leg finished him three seasons later at only 28.

If you don't remember Just Fontaine, I know a man who does. His name is Pele — and he once told me about the shock of Fontaine's scoring the very first goal conceded by the 1958 Brazilians.

It was a quick equaliser in the semi-final at Stockholm and laid on by his usual feed, Raymond Kopa — three times a European Cup-winning winger with Real Madrid but a deep centre-forward for France.

Kopa was a small man whose gigantic talents included a deadly intensity of purpose.

"He puts his teeth-marks on the ball," said Ian St. John in Buenos Aires after partnering Kopa through a charity match during the 1978 World Cup.

Pele thought similarly when saying to me: "Kopa, Fontaine and the France of 1958. From my time, from all my World Cup opponents — they were the best!"

Only one thing could be done against such a combination — and Pele did it. A hat-trick in 20 minutes against a French team whose injured centre-half Jonquet hobbled in the forward line through the final hour. No subs then!

Brazil won 5-2 (the same score by which they would beat Sweden in the final) and Pele, at 17, was the rage of football — as all Santos supporters expected after he'd broken their club record with 53 goals in a season.

Yet manager Vicente Feola, who had almost left him at home to recover from a knee injury, didn't risk Pele in either of the opening games: 3-0 v Austria and 0-0 v England.

Then Feola made three famous changes designed to beat the Soviet Union in Gothenburg and win the group: a recall for Zito, the all-round midfielder who'd complement Didi's brilliance in the novel 4-2-4 formation.

A chance — by dressing-room request — for winger Garrincha, born with a deformed left leg but explosive speed.

And, at last, a World Cup debut for Pele. He hit a Soviet post; he scored — a deflection off Stuart Williams — in the quarter-final against Wales, then he hat-tricked France with one gift, one half-chance and an eye-popping volley.

Pele signed off Brazil's scoring in Stockholm with his second goal of the final — a near-post header from a high cross by Mario Zagalo, the left-winger who would be his manager 12 years later in Mexico.

"Individually", said Pele, "the 1958 team with Garrincha, Didi, Zito, Vava, Nilton Santos and Djalmar Santos was the most talented of my time. But the 1970 team in Mexico was better collectively.

"They hadn't quite the same skill as our side in Sweden, but they were a stronger unit."

Tears of joy flowed from Pele in Stockholm when Brazil ran their laps of honour as the first — and still the only — nation to win the World Cup in another continent. Tears of misery, though, were his fate in the next two tournaments.

Brazil starring Garrincha — and with most the same but noticeable older players — retained their crown four years later in Chile despite losing Pele after only one full game.

Pele tore a muscle when shooting in the group match against Czechoslovakia (the eventual runners-up) but it was enough to qualify for the second of his three World Cup winner's medals. The only set in his-

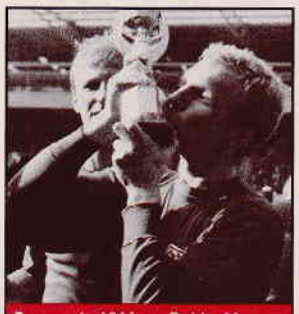
Record . . . Just Fontaine, scorer of 13 goals in the 1958 finals.

Still winning in 1970 . . . Pele in Mexico after Brazil's 4-1 defeat of Italy in the Azteca Stadium.

tory! Pele's progress was again curtailed in 1966 when the Bulgarians, particularly Zhechev, chopped him cruelly at Goodison after he'd scored with a free-kick.

While Pele tried to recover, Brazil lost to Hungary at Goodison, their first World Cup defeat since the 1954 Brawl in Berne against Hidegkuti and the old Magical Magyars.

Pele wasn't properly fit for the final group match — against Portugal at Goodison. But it was win or bust, so Feola selected him and the Portuguese reacted with a savagery that made Bulgaria seem almost merciful.


Success in 1966 . . . Bobby Moore.

Two wicked challenges on Pele in the first half-hour were crowned by a crippling double-tackle from behind by the right-back Morais — who, shamefully, was allowed to stay on by English referee George McCabe.

Pele, not surprisingly, said: "If that's what the World Cup has become, you can keep it. I'll never play in another; I don't want to finish as an invalid."

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, 25-year-old son of the small-town professional Dondinho, no longer enjoyed paying the price for being perfect in balance, in control, and in easy acceptance of the ball from every conceivable angle.

I've seen him strip in a dressing-room and then clothe himself left-handed — socks, underwear, trousers, shoes and shirt — while simultaneously signing non-stop autographs with his right.

This superhuman co-ordination was allied to perfect physique as a 5ft 8ins, 11-stone light-middleweight; perfect sight with huge eyeballs detecting peripheral movement behind any normal line of vision. Perfection also in courage, in springheeled jumping and heading as well as in anticipation and firepower.

One problem with such flawlessness was a scarcity of opponents with the chivalry and confidence to attempt matching Pele on merit. Brutality came easier.

Pele's second problem was fatigue. He was the unrestable, the one who always had to play — and Santos squeezed him a like a lemon through an endless schedule of real and invented competitions as well as club tours often of 22,000 miles, eight countries and 12 friendlies in a month. He said: "One year I played 121 matches and had only three weeks off!"

Zagalo — "The Wolf" for his craftiness — knew this and concocted an irresistible bait to persuade Pele into a fourth World Cup and a group showdown with the new champions from England, the 4-4-2 side designed for defence by the manager headlined in Mexico as "Odious Alf", symbol of gringo arrogance.

Pele was the richest footballer on earth, stopped once at Heathrow with $100,000 in his holdall. "Loose change," he explained.

But he'd never been able to buy what Zagalo offered free. Time, leisure, six weeks with his feet up — and the key to Room 17 overlooking the pool in Suites Caribe.

This Guadalajara motel became Pele's hermitage. The squad went downtown at times. But he always stayed behind. When asked why, he said: "Rest is what I needed, I've not felt so well for six or seven years."

It was an assessment borne out from the moment Pele took the field. At 29, he was at his peak. Experienced, fresh and revelling in the company of Jairzinho, Tostao, Gerson, Rivelino — attacking footballers who were little his inferiors.

Pele scored four goals in Mexico as well as rolling out the passes for Jairzinho to beat England 1-0 and for captain Carlos Alberto to complete the 4-1 crushing of Italy in the final. But it's three he didn't score that everyone remembers.

Pele spotted Ivo Viktor off Czechoslovakia's line and — from Brazil's half of the centre circle, 60 yards away — all but chipped the horrified keeper.

"Gol!" yelled Pele when his fierce downwards header met Jairzinho's cross at the far post. But it wasn't! Gordon Banks running — finally, throwing himself — backwards scooped the ball over the bar.

Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, Uruguay's renowned goalkeeper, flew out to block Pele in the semi-final only to find himself dummied. The ball one side of Mazurkiewicz while Pele swerved round the other and reached it first — but, in the enforced hurry, shot wide.

Jairzinho scored in each match from the start to the final, a unique feat. His seven goals helped topple England, Uruguay and Italy as Brazil captured the Jules Rimet trophy outright.

The years 1958-70 were spangled with mighty deeds and heroic teams. Real Madrid's fifth successive Champions Cup in that 7-3 climax against Eintracht Frankfurt in Glasgow.

England's lone World Cup at Wembley. Tottenham's League-and-Cup double of 1961. Celtic's historic Champions Cup victory in Lisbon, the first by a British club — and Manchester United's a year later against Benfica at Wembley.

There was the rise of Benfica and of Internazionale, also the warning from Feyenoord (when beating Celtic in the 1970 Champions Cup Final) that Holland would be a power in the game. But nothing in the era outshines the flamboyance, vivacity and sheer joy that Brazil and Pele brought to football while winning three World Cups out of four.

Pele knew who to thank at the finish. While the Azteca stadium rocked to the samba, he peeled off his No. 10 shirt in the dressing-room and gave it to manager Zagalo.

World stars (1958-70)

PELE: at 54, belongs to the world but played for only two clubs — Santos and, coming out of retirement in 1975 for £1million a season, New York Cosmos. Scored his 1,000th goal in November, 1969, against Vasco da Gama at the Maracana in Rio.

EUSEBIO: a £7,500 East African who became European Footballer of the Year in 1965 and World Cup top-scorer in 1966. The power of his right foot places him among the hardest-ever shots, but also cost Benfica the 1968 Champions Cup against Manchester United at Wembley. Eusebio (below) could have tolled a winning chance beyond Alex Stepney; instead, he blasted it. Stepney saved.

DANNY BLANCHFLOWER: captained Northern Ireland to the 1958 World Cup quarter-finals and Tottenham to the League and FA Cup double in 1961, the FA Cup in 1962 and the Cup-winners Cup in 1963. A highly intelligent and stylish right-half with a gift for whimsy: "Our plan's to equalise before they score."

JIMMY JOHNSTONE: the personalty "wee man" of the Celtic teams who won the 1967 Champions Cup and lost in extra-time to Feyenoord three years later. Speedy winger, usually unstoppable on either side of the full-back and could not be cowed on the pitch. Off it, though, he'd wander into trouble and his great manager, Jock Stein, once cried: "My finest feat is keeping Johnstone in the game!"

NILS LIEDHOLM : outstanding member of the 1958 Swedish World Cup finalists. A cultured midfielder who could be effective on either side of the pitch and in any position. He could head, shoot, create and defend. Mr. Versatility.

DIDI. At 14, Brazilian surgeons considered amputating his grossly abscessed right leg. At 22 he scored the first goal in the newly-opened Maracana. The commanding link-man in Brazil's 1958 midfield, credited with inventing the banana shot.

BOBBY MOORE: A born captain whose three greatest years ran from 1964 to 1966 when he led West Ham to the FA and the Cup-winners Cup, then England to the World Cup. Hard to think of a centre-back who read the game more clearly, tackled as cleanly and was so rarely flustered.

GERSON: Chain-smoker and master-passer whose left foot orchestrated the 1970 Brazilians and — striking a 20-yard goal no more than waist-high in the 65th minute of the final — devastated Italy's dream of their sweeper-system holding out until extra time.

GEOFF HURST: Converted Essex cricketer and West Ham wing-half who used his height, strong thighs and unselfishness to become among the most accomplished of England's traditional centre-forwards — while also securing a hall-of-fame place with his hat-trick in the 1966 World Cup Final.

JOHN CHARLES: "King John" of Leeds, Wales and Juventus. A 17-year-old prodigy at centre-half, who then averaged a goal every two games at centre-forward and was signed for a British record £65,000 by Juventus. He won three Italian titles while helping Wales to the quarter-finals of the 1958 World Cup.

World teams (1958-70)

BRAZIL overshadowed all nations and all clubs by winning three World Cups — 1958, 1962, 1970 — out of four. No side since, not even the Total Footballers of Holland '74 have been nominated for serious comparison with the Pele boys in blue and gold.

REAL MADRID were the Brazil of club football, winning the first five Champions Cups — beating Rheims (twice), Fiorentina, Milan and Eintracht Frankfurt. The 7-3 revel against the Germans showed Real at their zenith. Di Stefano scored three, Puskas four — and 135,000 (a final record) at Hampden still love to talk about it.

CELTIC won nine successive Scottish championships and Britain's first Champions Cup in 1967 — as well as defeating Don Revie's "unbeatable" Leeds home and away in the 1970 semi-finals to reach their second European final. Captain Billy McNeill, Tommy Gemmell, Bobby Murdoch, Jimmy Johnstone, Bertie Auld, Willie Wallace and Bobby Lennox played in both.

TOTTENHAM did the first English League and FA Cup double of the 20th century by setting records: 11 consecutive League wins from opening day, and 16 away wins, with eight in succession. They starred Danny Blanchflower, wing-half partner Dave Mackay, flying winger Cliff Jones, fearless Bobby Smith, the ghosting inside forward John White — and they earned £20 a week plus a £6 bonus in this last season of the maximum wage.

WORLD SOCCER AWARDS 93

Roberto Baggio . . .

WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Alex Ferguson . . .

WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Parma . . .

WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

ROBERTO BAGGIO is your World Player of the Year . . . Alex Ferguson of Manchester United is your World Manager of the Year . . . and Parma, holders of the European Cup-winners Cup, are your World Team of the Year.

A well-deserving trio led by a footballer in Baggio who owes his accolade to his inspirational — and goal-den — contribution to Italy's World Cup qualification and Juventus's UEFA Cup success. He was runaway winner in *WORLD SOCCER'S* poll — maintaining the tradition of Calcio's domination of the prize.

Baggio's career has been one long success, though not everyone has been confident his natural talent would shine through.

He made his name in the top flight with Fiorentina and his transfer, in the summer of 1990, provoked riots in Florence which demanded shield and baton protection for the club offices and members of the board.

Baggio had been as much a hero — perhaps even more of a hero — as Giancarlo Antognoni a decade earlier. But the Florentine fans felt betrayed because the club had sold him as soon as they had lost to Juventus in the UEFA Cup that spring.

Baggio apologised to the fans at an emotional press conference. Despite earlier promises of loyalty he could not turn down — and the fans knew it — the golden multi-million offer which had come his way from Turin.

In the World Cup in the summer of 1990 Baggio established himself ahead of Gianluca Vialli as the pre-eminent Italian talent, partly thanks to a marvellous solo goal against Czechoslovakia before things started to go sour. Baggio's one

1993 VOTING

WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

1 Roberto **BAGGIO** (Juventus & Italy) 13.5
2 Dennis BERGKAMP (Internazionale & Holland) .. 11
3 Ruud GULLIT (Sampdoria & Holland) 9
4 Romario (Barcelona & Brazil) 7.5
5 Faustino Asprilla (Parma & Colombia) 7
6 Ryan Giggs (Manchester United & Wales) 6.5
7 Eric Cantona (Manchester United & France) 6
8 Frank Rijkaard (Ajax & Holland) 5.5
9 Michael Laudrup (Barcelona & Denmark) 5.25
10 Rai (Paris SG & Brazil) 5
11 Giuseppe Signori (Lazio & Italy) 4
12 Jean-Pierre Papin (Milan & France) 3.5
13 Bebeto (La Coruna & Brazil) 3
14 Brian Laudrup (Milan & Denmark) 2.5
15 Jurgen Klinsmann (Monaco & Germany) 2.5
16 Tomas Brolin (Parma & Sweden) 2
17 Paolo Maldini (Milan & Italy) 1.5
18 Carlos Valderrama (At. Junior & Colombia) 1.5
19 Martin Dahlin (Borussia Mg & Sweden) 1
20 Jari Litmanen (Ajax & Finland) 1

WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

1 Alex **FERGUSON** (Manchester United) 21
2 Nevio SCALA (Parma) 17
3 Egil OLSEN (Norway) 12
4 Fabio Capello (Milan) 11
5 Sven-Goran Eriksson (Sampdoria) 9
6 Roy Hodgson (Switzerland) 8
7 Johan Cruyff (Barcelona) 6
8 Tele Santana (Sao Paulo) 5.5
9 Xavier Azkargorta (Bolivia) 5
10 Mike Walker (Norwich City) 3

WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

1 **PARMA** 24
2 COLOMBIA 18
3 MANCHESTER UNITED 15
4 Milan 11
5 Sampdoria 9.5
6 Juventus 7.5
7 Spain 6
8 Zambia 5
9 Italy 3
10 Barcelona 1

THE PREVIOUS WINNERS

WORLD FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

1982
1 Paolo **ROSSI** (Juventus & Italy) 22
2 Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (Bayern & W Germany) 14
3 Paolo Roberto Falcao (Roma & Brazil) 12

1983
1 **ZICO** (Udinese & Brazil) 28
2 Michel Platini (Juventus & France) 24
3 Paolo Roberto Falcao (AS Roma & Brazil) 18

1984
1 Michel **PLATINI** (Juventus & France) 54
2 Ian Rush (Liverpool & Wales) 9
3 Zico (Udinese & Brazil) 7

1985
1 Michel **PLATINI** (Juventus & France) 20.6
2 Preben Elkjaer (Verona & Denmark) 11.2
3 Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina) 7

1986
1 Diego **MARADONA** (Napoli & Argentina) 35.8
2 Igor Belanov (Kiev Dynamo & Soviet Union) 6.2
3 Gary Lineker (Barcelona & England) 5.7

1987
1 Ruud **GULLIT** (Milan & Holland) 38.5
2 Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina) 13.1
3 Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland) 8.8

1988
1 Marco **VAN BASTEN** (Milan & Holland) 43
2 Ruud Gullit (Milan & Holland) 21
3 Frank Rijkaard (Milan & Holland) 7

1989
1 Ruud **GULLIT** (Milan & Holland) 24
2 Marco Van Basten (Milan & Holland) 15
3 Bebeto (Flamengo/Vasco da Gama & Brazil) 10

1990
1 Lothar **MATTHAUS** (Internazionale & Germany) 21.9
2 Salvatore Schillaci (Juventus & Italy) 12.1
3 Diego Maradona (Napoli & Argentina) 6.6

1991
1 Jean-Pierre **PAPIN** (Marseille & France) 25
2 Robert Prosinecki (Real Madrid, Yugoslavia) 15
3 Darko Pancev (Red Star & Yugoslavia) 13

1992
1 Marco **VAN BASTEN** (Milan & Holland) 18.32
2 Dennis Bergkamp (Ajax & Holland) 13.74
3 Peter Schmeichel (Man Utd & Denmark) 11.45

WORLD MANAGER OF THE YEAR

1982
1 Enzo **BEARZOT** (Italy) 49
2 Tele Santana (Brazil) 18
3 Michel Hidalgo (France) 7

1983
1 Sepp **PIONTEK** (Denmark) 29
2 Ernst Happel (Hamburg) 27
3 Nils Liedholm (AS Roma) 10

1984
1 Michel **HIDALGO** (France) 30
2 Joe Fagan (Liverpool) 15
3 Sepp Piontek (Denmark) 8

1985
1 Terry **VENABLES** (Barcelona) 28.8
2 Howard Kendall (Everton) ..... 2[illegible]
3 Giovanni Trapattoni (Juventus) 5.8

1986
1 Guy **THYS** (Belgium) 15.4
2 Valeri Lobanovsky (Kiev Dynamo & Soviet Union) 14.7
3 Kenny Dalglish (Liverpool) 14.4

1987
1 Johan **CRUYFF** (Ajax) 24.6
2 Udo Lattek (Koln) 17.6
3 Leo Beenhakker (Real Madrid) 16.5

1988
1 Rinus **MICHELS** (Holland/Bayer Leverkusen) 48

stroke of ill luck was to arrive at Juventus with the club in transition. The boardroom was changing, so was the team, and the financial powerbase. As the Italian economy went into recession, so FIAT could no longer afford quite the same money to rebuild the team. A lot of money was spent still, but on ill-fitted players.

Only this past year have Juventus begun to look like a club regaining confidence and strength. Much of that is due to Baggio's attacking leadership. His class has shone through at domestic and international level. That is why he has become only the second Italian — after Paolo Rossi — to win the *WORLD SOCCER* World Player of the Year award.

As for ALEX FERGUSON, his victory represents a prize not only for his own perseverance under enormous pressure, but the huge following Manchester United possess around the world. Ferguson had been a success in his own right in Scotland, winning the Cup-winners Cup with Aberdeen and managing his country at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

But Manchester United represented perhaps the ultimate challenge in British club football: the club with a magical name, a great history and a hunger for success which only the English league title would ever really satisfy. More than 25 years had passed since United had last finished on top of the league. Ferguson worked hard, spent heavily, kept his cool and was duly rewarded at the end of last season.

United's success transcended the domestic football world. News spread around the globe and brought a bright new lustre back to the game in England . . . which events since then have tarnished somewhat.

Ferguson has not been able to capitalise on the league success in Europe this season. It takes a little extra something to win a continental prize — that little extra something possessed by Italy's PARMA.

Their victory in the Cup-winners Cup was remarkable because, less than a decade ago, Parma were in the Italian Third Division.

They were brought up into the top-flight sunshine thanks to the foundation work laid by Arrigo Sacchi — later of Milan, now of Italy — and Nevio Scala is a worthy successor as coach.

Scala has developed a well-disciplined side capable of striking for success thanks to the cream topping provided by the likes of Colombia's Faustino Asprilla and Sweden's Tomas Brolin.

That Parma should now be laying a serious challenge to Milan's hegemony in the Italian championship stakes is no surprise. The likes of Verona and Cagliari have proved, over the years, that even the greatest giants can be caught off guard.

That is why, after all, Parma are where they are now — on top of the *WORLD SOCCER* world!

2 Jack Charlton (Republic of Ireland) 13
3 Arrigo Sacchi (Milan) 6

1989
1 Arrigo **SACCHI** (Milan) 42
2 Sebastian Lazaroni (Brazil) 25
3 George Graham (Arsenal) 8

1990
1 Franz **BECKENBAUER** (West Germany) 52.7
2 Bora Milutinovic (Costa Rica) 9.3
3 Carlos Bilardo (Argentina) 6.3

1991
1 Michel **PLATINI** (France) 52
2 Vujadin Boskov (Sampdoria) 19
3 Alfio Basile (Argentina) 10

1992
1 Richard **MOLLER NIELSEN** (Denmark) 27.48
2 Johan Cruyff (Barcelona) 16.81
3 Fabio Capello (Milan) 16.77

WORLD TEAM OF THE YEAR

1982
1 **BRAZIL** 30
2 Italy 26
3 Flamengo 20

1983
1 **HAMBURG** 29
2 Aberdeen 15
3 Denmark 11

1984
1 **FRANCE** 45
2 Liverpool 19
3 Juventus 6

1985
1 **EVERTON** 42.3
2 Juventus 8.6
3 Verona 7.4

1986
1 **ARGENTINA** 14.59
2 Kiev Dynamo 14.55
3 Denmark 8.6

1987
1 **FC PORTO** 37.7
2 Ajax 18.9
3 Real Madrid 16.4

1988
1 **HOLLAND** 43
2 PSV Eindhoven 13
3 Liverpool 10

1989
1 **MILAN** 51
2 Brazil 23
3 Arsenal 7

1990
1 **WEST GERMANY** 28.4
2 Milan 17.6
3 Cameroon 9.6

1991
1 **FRANCE** 20
2 Argentina 17
3 Red Star Belgrade 13

1992
1 **DENMARK** 37.40
2 Milan 34.35
3 Barcelona 9.92

● *Figures represent percentage of the total vote*

Walker's a winner

NORWICH CITY manager Mike Walker knows that his club will never be a Manchester United or a Liverpool. But he believes they have the potential to emulate the achievements of former League and European champions Nottingham Forest.

MARK IRWIN talks to a manager from nowhere

Walker can do little wrong after masterminding the club's first European campaign, claiming the prize scalp of Bayern Munich before the high-profile UEFA Cup clash with Internazionale.

Yet his appointment as manager was not widely welcomed by Norwich supporters when he succeeded Dave Stringer 18 months ago.

Walker, a former goalkeeper with Reading, Watford and Colchester, had little managerial experience — 18 months at Fourth

Two styles help to lift Norwich

Yellow peril . . . Jeremy Goss wheels away after equalising for Norwich against Bayern Munich in the UEFA Cup second round, second leg tie at Carrow Road.

Division Colchester. That ended with the sack, in 1987.

Ironically, his dismissal came the day before he was named Manager of the Month, with the team fifth after six successive victories. Now Walker admits: "My greatest mistake was trusting a certain chairman in the distant past."

The experience did not deter him from putting himself forward when the manager's position fell vacant at Carrow Road.

And despite supporters' demands for a "big name" manager to revive the club, chairman Robert Chase opted for the man who had been quietly working with the reserves for five years.

"The previous management did a good job, but I always felt the players needed pushing a bit more," says Walker.

"I felt they had more to offer, and they've proved that in the past 18 months."

Walker does not name names, but two of the players he is almost certainly talking about are Ruel Fox and Jeremy Goss.

Under Stringer, both had been no more than fringe players, more accustomed to playing for Walker's reserve team. Now they are key figures in the Norwich success story, keen to pay tribute to the man who has helped them realise their potential.

"Stringer made it very clear that I was only a squad player, but Walker always told me 'You'd be in my team if I was manager'," reveals Fox.

"There have been big changes under Mike and John Deehan and a lot of us are playing so much better. They handle things differently. We're a lot more relaxed and that gives me the confidence to play at my best."

Those sentiments are echoed by Goss, the Welsh international midfielder who scored in both legs of that Bayern victory.

"Only Mike has been able to get me playing as I always knew I could," says Goss.

"I'd had a lot of highs and lows, but there had been more lows before Mike took over.

"I wanted to leave and turned down three contract offers put to me. Then John Deehan showed me a list circulated by the PFA containing the names of 600 players looking for new clubs.

"That's when it sunk in that I'd never get Premiership and European football with any other club."

Walker has turned down £2 million offers from Blackburn for both Fox and England Under-21 international Chris Sutton. The European campaign will give him the ability to keep resisting such offers.

His first job as Norwich manager was to oversee the departure of leading scorer Robert Fleck to Chelsea. Since then, however, the only players who have left are those who no longer figure in his first-team plans. "Everything at a club like Norwich will always be linked to finance," Walker admits.

"A successful season means we can hold on to the sort of players we used to sell, and hopefully bring in others of even better quality.

"No matter how good your squad, you have to be able to buy. You can't be a great coach or manager if you've not got the quality to work with.

"I liken our situation to Nottingham Forest's when Brian Clough took charge. They were fourth bottom of the Second Division at the time and certainly weren't the big club they are today.

"Cloughie didn't pay big fees and big wages initially. But he set certain standards and won confidence. You need the backing of the board if you're going to achieve anything."

Walker certainly has the full support of chairman Chase, who claims the UEFA Cup victory over Bayern was "the greatest night in the club's history," and goes on: "When you consider we have three or four players earning less than £500 a week and compare that to the millionaires of Munich, you can put our success into context. But beating Bayern was just another step in our struggle to achieving respectability in the game."

'I get tarred with the same brush as my team. People think I'm just a flash in the pan'

Walker still feels aggrieved that public recognition only started to arrive after the result against Bayern.

"I just want recognition for trying to play the game the way I think is right," he says.

"We play much better football than a lot of other teams, yet people still knock us as though we have no right to be up here."

Walker denies he wants that recognition for himself but does admit: "I get tarred with the same brush as my team. People think I'm just a flash in the pan.

"Obviously, I don't agree with that, and what we've achieved proves it to a certain degree.

"If you shout a bit, you get noticed more. But that's not my style. I prefer to let my team do my talking with me and let people judge me on my buying and selling and on results."

Like his players, Walker believes he is learning all the time from this season's European experience, and is clearly enjoying the battle of wits involved.

He says: "The money people obviously see qualifying for the UEFA Cup as a great financial opportunity, but the most important aspect for me has been the chance to watch so many styles and pit my wits against the top managers.

"That's the same for my players. There's no doubt that, as footballers, they'll really feel the benefit of our run in the UEFA Cup.

"At the start of the season I looked at the 64 qualifiers for the UEFA Cup I thought 'There's some bloody good sides there'. But we have developed a system ideally suited to European football. I sat down with my coaching staff in the summer and decided that we had to be a lot more solid. We conceded far too many goals last season and I knew we couldn't continue that way if we were to stand any chance in Europe.

"So we introduced two systems, one based around 4-4-2 and the other involving five at the back. The players weren't convinced initially, but after working on it during a pre-season tour of Sweden they came to realise it could be a success.

"Now they've really taken to it, our away results have been very encouraging, although I feel we could still be a little more positive at home."

Walker admires the continental game and always advocated the passing game ahead of the traditional British characteristics.

Yet he is quick to defend many of the qualities to be seen in the Premiership, and points out that one of his first tasks on taking charge of Norwich was to inject a little more steel.

Fox reveals, "We were a good passing side some time before Mike took over, but we were rightly accused of being a soft touch when it came to a scrap. He soon put a stop to that, and now we can be as physical as the best of them.

"The accent is still on retaining possession and keeping the ball on the ground, but there are times when you need to be strong. Those qualities paid off against both Vitesse Arnhem and Bayern."

Walker points out: "The reason our clubs have not done so well in Europe in recent years is because we were all banned for five years. Before then we were the only country winning things."

He admits that the European experience has been everything and more that he had hoped for, and says: "There's a special buzz about European nights.

"But the League is our bread and butter. We finished third last season and we want to improve on that. We've made people take notice of us. Now we need to win a trophy.

"I'm no different from anyone else. I have my dreams and my ambitions. But I feel I've something a bit special here at Norwich and I want to see the job through. I want to get right to the top, but there's still so much to play for here."

'Give my men a fair go'

HE says: "I'm surprised that Ruel Fox has not been named in an England squad yet.

Tony Daley has played for England — why not Ruel? He has as much to offer in terms of bringing others into the game, if not more.

"We have a couple of other players in that category. It's not for me to say who should be in the England team, but it's clear the bigger clubs get looked at first and I just hope my players get a fair crack of the whip."

QPR manager Gerry Francis knows what it's like for a "small" club manager to have England players in his side and says: "I wonder if Norwich would have achieved so much recent success if a few of their players had been capped by England.

"We had three men called up by Graham Taylor last season and it makes your job a lot harder. All of a sudden you've got players mixing with huge earners, getting themselves agents and being linked with every big club in the country. It has a very unsettling effect.

"Norwich haven't had to put up with that so far. I'll be interested to see how they cope when it happens."

nearer the top

Taylor cuts his losses

GRAHAM TAYLOR'S three-year reign as England manager ended a week after his side's 7-1 win over San Marino in Bologna . . . a result which was still not enough to take the team to the US next summer.

The damage had been done earlier in the qualifying programme with the home draws and away defeats to Norway and Holland, leaving Taylor and his assistant Lawrie McMenemy no option but to resign.

Taylor's biggest mistakes were his inexplicable team selections and his constant tinkering with tactics and formations, which culminated in the 2-0 defeat in Oslo when the players seemed utterly confused and demoralised.

His poor record has forced the normally ultra-conservative FA to reconsider their whole strategy.

They originally planned to appoint an experienced coach as caretaker for the internationals with Denmark and Germany next spring, but Don Howe and John Lyall refused the offer, prompting the FA to bring in former Blackpool and England player Jimmy Armfield — widely respected within the game and currently a soccer journalist — to help search for Taylor's replacement.

Armfield's appointment is puzzling, and appears to be yet another complication. Bringing in a *Daily Express* northern football correspondent to head-hunt the next England manager merely seems to confirm that the FA's top brass are so unsure of themselves that they need outside help.

Armfield has no shortage of candidates to choose from, with several ex-internationals being championed by the press. Among those being touted are Steve Coppell, Kevin Keegan, Gerry Francis, Bryan Robson, Ray Wilkins, Trevor Francis and Glenn Hoddle. Older, more established managers in the frame include Howard Wilkinson and Ron Atkinson.

Interestingly, Armfield is a known admirer of Keegan, but may not be able to persuade the Newcastle board to release their manager for a reasonable compensatory sum. Newcastle would not even look at anything less than £1million.

Ultimately the decision will rest with a four-man sub-committee, composed of FA chief executive Graham Kelly, chairman Sir Bert Millichip, international committee head Peter Swales and his deputy Noel White.

Swales has recently resigned as chairman of Manchester City, and will step down from his FA post next June, so it is safe to assume that he will play only a minor role in the appointment.

The FA have given no indication of when an announcement will be made, but they must surely appoint someone before the end of January, when the draw for the 1996 European Championship qualifiers will be made. To attend the draw, as hosts, without an international manager would be highly embarrassing.

JOHN KELLY

Window of opportunity . . . Jimmy Armfield will lead the search for England's new boss.

Bingham out, with pride

THERE was an emotional end to Billy Bingham's reign as national team manager of Northern Ireland.

Bingham (above), the longest-serving international manager — he has been in charge since 1980 — watched his team draw 1-1 with the Republic of Ireland in a tension-filled World Cup match before a full house at Windsor Park.

His players did him proud in his 117th game in charge — he also had occupied the "hot seat" from 1967 to 1971 — and a superbly struck goal by Jimmy Quinn gave Jack Charlton's team quite a fright before they drew level and discovered that they had qualified for the US by the narrowest possible margin.

Under the affable Bingham, Northern Ireland played 117 matches, winning 40, drawing 33, losing 44, scoring 114 goals and conceding 128.

The highlights of a distinguished managerial career were two World Cup final tournament appearances, 1982 and 1986, and two British

Golac sums up a gloomy period

THE decaying state of Scottish football has now become manifest within the game at both club and international level.

The national team's failure to qualify for next year's World Cup was mirrored by the abysmal performances of the country's five representatives in European competition.

Rangers, Hearts and Dundee United filed through the exit door in the first round, and Celtic and Aberdeen went no further than the second round.

So Scottish fans will have nothing more exciting to look forward to on Wednesday evenings during the winter than the latest episode of *Coronation Street.*

A sobering thought, for even the most hot-blooded Scottish male would prefer to watch Ally McCoist and Eoin Jess taking on Europe's finest rather than tune in to the alternative delights provided by Raquel and Tanya behind the bar of the Rovers Return.

Amid this brick wall of gloom and despondency, however, is a small window of optimism, found in the unlikely surroundings of Celtic Park, where such an emotion has been noticeably absent for some time.

Lou Macari has settled in as Celtic manager, becoming one of a select group to have held that position during the club's 105-year history.

"Basically I have to get Celtic above Rangers — that way we'll win the League," he says.

Insular thinking perhaps, especially to those who contest that there is more to Scottish football than the Old Firm, but probably a realistic assessment from a man who won two Championship and two Scottish Cup medals at Celtic before winning more honours at Manchester United.

Macari knows that he could not get things right overnight. "You can't guarantee success, only 100 per cent effort, and I can guarantee that," he says.

Dundee United's Ivan Golac is definitely far from happy at the effort shown by his players.

A run of indifferent results has sent the club slowly down the table, leading to some colourful verbal outbursts from ex-Southampton defender Golac.

Having occasionally referred to his players as "amateurs" and "village footballers", Golac delved into his vocabulary after the team had twice surrendered two-goal leads, suggesting that his team were like the Red Cross. "If anyone needs reviving, we seem to help them."

Interesting phraseology and refreshing honesty, but for a man who apparently learned to speak English by listening to the *Rolling Stones* in Yugoslavia, there is little *Satisfaction* at present.

ALAN FAIRLEY

Inter move ahead

INTER CARDIFF went further ahead in the Konica League of Wales despite a surprise 4-0 defeat at Flint Town.

Ton Pentre were three points behind and Bangor were one further away. The defending champions, Cwmbran were seventh and contemplating the possibility that they could go into the history books as the only Welsh club ever to play in the Champions Cup.

They qualified for this season's tournament, losing unluckily to Cork City, and now the changes in the future set-up of the competition mean that Wales are unlikely to have an automatic representative.

Former Wales, QPR and Aston Villa half-back, Ivor Powell, still coaching at the age of 77, is to be awarded an honourary degree by the University of Bath.

Powell won 14 caps for his country and after a lengthy playing career he became a manager and trainer, finishing up at Bath City.

He has been head coach at the University for the past 23 years.

PAUL DAVID

Championship wins, 1980 and 1984. Perhaps the best results were 1-0 victories home and away over West Germany in the qualifying series for the 1984 European Championship. Unfortunately the Irish missed qualifying on goal difference.

As a player Bingham made 56 appearances, scoring 10 goals, and was a member of the team in the World Cup finals in Sweden in 1958.

On the domestic front, champions Linfield's run of seven successive victories came to an end against last season's runners up Crusaders at Windsor Park.

A 1-0 defeat ousted the Blues from the top of the table, and the following week Linfield dropped to fourth when they lost 3-2 to in-form Glenavon at Lugan.

Glenavon's man in charge, Alan Fraser, was Manager of the Month for October.

With around a third of the fixtures completed, there are only four real contenders for the title: Linfield, Crusaders, Glenavon and Portadown.

Struggling Ballyclare Comrades lost manager Jimmy Brown, citing pressure of business, but he joined Roy Coyle as assistant at Ards a few days later.

Ballyclare appointed senior players Colin Crawford and John Muldoon as joint managers.

Ards, struggling to get away from the bottom of the table, incurred Coyle's anger in a 4-0 defeat against much-improved Coleraine, who seem inspired by recent £20,000 signing Paul Carlyle from Derry City.

Coyle announced that the whole team were on the transfer list, and followed by transferring expensive summer signing Ken de Mange from Limerick back across the border to Bohemians of Dublin.

There's disquiet at the Oval, too, where Robert Strain is struggling to find a satisfactory blend. Glentoran supporters demonstrated against the board after a 4-1 home defeat by Cliftonville.

Distillery won their first trophy in more than seven years when they defeated Bangor 3-2 in the Gold Cup Final. The winner in extra time was scored by a former Bangor player, "Winkie" Armstrong, who rejoices in a full name of Winston Churchill Armstrong.

ROY KITSON

WALES (KONICA LEAGUE)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Cardiff	14	11	1	2	30	11	34
Ton Pentre	14	9	4	1	30	10	31
Bangor	15	9	3	3	31	14	30
Ebbw Vale	13	9	1	3	27	17	28
Holywell	14	8	2	4	36	22	26
Conway	14	7	2	5	24	21	23
Cwmbran	15	7	2	6	14	18	23
Connah's Quay	14	6	3	5	25	20	21
Aberystwyth	13	6	3	4	18	13	21
Porthmadog	15	5	5	5	31	29	20
Flint Town	13	5	2	6	19	19	17
Llansantfraid	15	5	1	8	19	21	17
Haverfordwest	14	5	2	7	19	29	17
Caersws	14	3	6	5	15	20	15
Maesteg	14	4	3	7	21	30	15
Newtown	13	4	2	7	17	26	14
Afan Lido	15	3	4	6	17	29	13
Briton Ferry	14	2	5	7	22	33	11
Llanelli	14	3	2	9	27	44	11
Mold Alexandra	15	2	2	11	23	41	8

RESULTS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Manchester Utd	15	13	1	1	33	13	40
Aston Villa	15	8	5	2	18	11	29
Norwich	15	7	6	3	24	14	27
QPR	15	8	2	5	28	21	26
Leeds	15	7	5	3	25	18	26
Arsenal	15	7	5	3	15	8	26
Blackburn	15	7	5	3	20	14	26
Newcastle	15	7	4	4	27	15	25
Liverpool	15	7	2	6	22	15	23
Tottenham	15	5	5	5	20	16	20
Coventry	15	4	8	3	16	17	20
Wimbledon	15	5	5	5	17	22	20
Everton	15	6	1	8	17	21	19
Ipswich	15	4	5	6	15	22	17
West Ham	14	4	4	6	8	15	16
Man City	14	3	6	5	14	14	15
Sheffield Wed	15	2	8	5	21	24	14
Chelsea	15	3	4	8	11	18	13
Sheffield Utd	15	2	6	7	17	24	12
Southampton	15	3	2	10	16	26	11
Oldham	15	2	5	8	10	24	11
Swindon	15	0	6	9	13	35	6

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

MIDWEEK

WIMBLEDON 0
IPSWICH 2 (Mason 70, Stockwell 81). **Att:** 7,756.

COCA-COLA CUP — 3rd round

ARSENAL 1 (Wright 78)
NORWICH 1 (Crook 33). **Att:** 24,539.

BLACKBURN 0
SHREWSBURY 0. **Att:** 10,603.

BLACKPOOL 2 (Watson 30, 65)
PETERBOROUGH 2 (Hackett 37, Adcock 57). **Att:** 4,863.

EVERTON 2 (Beagrie 57, Watson 90)
C PALACE 2 (Thorn 48, Southgate 55). **Att:** 11,547.

MAN CITY 1 (White 82)
CHELSEA 0. **Att:** 16,713.

OLDHAM 2 (Beckford 18, Sharp 61)
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 10.071.
● *Phil Neal's first game in charge of Coventry ends in defeat.*

PORTSMOUTH 2 (Durnin 58, Walsh 76)
SWINDON 0. **Att:** 12,554.

SUNDERLAND 1 (P Gray 46)
ASTON VILLA 4 (Atkinson 27, 88, Richardson 32, Houghton 73). **Att:** 23,692.

TRANMERE 4 (Aldridge 39, 44, Vickers 47, Irons 67)
GRIMSBY 1 (O'Kerie 90). **Att:** 5,204.

DERBY 0
TOTTENHAM 1 (Barmby 71). **Att:** 19, 855.

LIVERPOOL 3 (Rush 1, 16, 64)
IPSWICH 2 (Marshall 22, Mason 77 pen). **Att:** 19, 058.

MANCHESTER UTD 5 (Bruce 7, 86, McClair 14, Sharpe 53, Hughes 62)
LEICESTER 1 (Hill 64). **Att:** 41,344.
● *United defender Steve Bruce scored his 100th League and Cup goal.*

MIDDLESBROUGH 1 (Hendrie 52)
SHEFFIELD WED 1 (Palmer 88). **Att:** 14,765.

NOTTM. FOREST 2 (Black 28, Collymore 55)
WEST HAM 1 (Morley 83). **Att:** 17,857.

QPR 3 (Sinclair 31, Barker 42, Ferdinand 54)
MILLWALL 0. **Att:** 14,190.

WIMBLEDON 2 (Barton 23, Holdsworth 68)
NEWCASTLE 1 (Sellers 28). **Att:** 11,531.

WEEKEND

MANCHESTER UTD 2 (Cantona 53, Hughes 57)
QPR 1 (Allen 8). **Att:** 44,663.

ARSENAL 0
NORWICH 0. **Att:** 30,516.

BLACKBURN 0
TOTTENHAM 0. **Att:** 16,849.

SWINDON 1 (Bodin 33 pen)
ASTON VILLA 2 (Teale 43, Atkinson 68). **Att:** 16,530.

SHEFFIELD WED 3 (Waddle 2, Jones 43, Bright 70)
LEEDS 3 (Fairclough 42, Wallace 56, Speed 64). **Att:** 31,892.

LIVERPOOL 4 (Fowler 14, 29, 85, Rush 62)
SOUTHAMPTON 2 (Le Tissier 49, 78). **Att:** 32,818.
● *Liverpool teenager Robbie Fowler scored his second hat-trick of the season.*

NEWCASTLE 4 (Beardsley 35 pen, 63, 71, Cole 60)
WIMBLEDON 0. **Att:** 33,392.
● *In-form striker Peter Beardsley scored a hat-trick . . . his first goals for Newcastle in the FA Carling Premiership.*

IPSWICH 0
EVERTON 2 (Barlow 13, Beagrie 61). **Att:** 15,078.

CHELSEA 0
OLDHAM 1 (Beckford 19). **Att:** 15,372.

COVENTRY 0
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. **Att:** 15,372.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

MIDWEEK

WEST HAM 3 (Burrows 3, Chapman 29, Holmes 70)
MANCHESTER CITY 1 (Curle 85 pen). **Att:** 16,605.

WEEKEND

SHEFFIELD UTD 1 (Whitehouse 43 pen)
NORWICH CITY 2 (Goss 26, Eadie 57). **Att:** 18,254.

ARSENAL 1 (Wright 58)
ASTON VILLA 2 (Whittingham 74, Townsend 90). **Att:** 31,773.
● *Ian Wright scored Arsenal's first goal in 426 minutes of League football.*

LEEDS 4 (Deane 47, Wallace 51,56, Rocastle 74)
CHELSEA 1 (Cascarino 86). **Att:** 18,254.

LIVERPOOL 2 (Clough 67, Matteo 83)
WEST HAM 0. **Att:** 42,254.

QPR 1 (Ferdinand 82)
BLACKBURN 0. **Att:** 17,636.

WIMBLEDON 3 (Fashanu 29, Blissett 68, Holdsworth 70)
SWINDON 0. **Att:** 7,758.

SOUTHAMPTON 1 (Maddison 60)
TOTTENHAM 0. **Att:** 16,017.

COVENTRY 2 (Quinn 27, 49)
EVERTON 1 (Rideout 70). **Att:** 15,662.

IPSWICH 1 (Marshall 81)
SHEFFIELD WED 4 (Jemson 19, 50, Bright 53, Palmer 75). **Att:** 15,070.

MANCHESTER CITY 2 (Quinn 22, 32)
MANCHESTER UTD 3 (Cantona 53, 78, Keane 87). **Att:** 35,155.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

OLDHAM 1 (Jobson 35)
NEWCASTLE 3 (Cole 55, 82, Beardsley 75). **Att:** 13,821.

COCA-COLA CUP — 3rd round replays

PETERBOROUGH 2 (Rush 3, Bradshaw 30)
BLACKPOOL 1 (Howarth 14 og). **Att:** 4,418.

C PALACE 1 (Southgate 20)
EVERTON 4 (Watson 31, 54, Ward 82 pen, Young 84 og). **Att:** 14,662.

NORWICH 0
ARSENAL 3 (Wright 15, 65, Merson 35). **Att:** 16,319.

SHEFFIELD WED 2 (Watson 16, Palmer 115)
MIDDLESBROUGH 1 (Mustoe 22). **Att:** 19,482 (aet).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

MANCHESTER UTD 3 (Pallister 53, Hughes 66, Kanchelskis 79)
WIMBLDEON 1 (Fashanu 64). **Att:** 44,748.

ASTON VILLA 1 (Whittingham 76)
SHEFFIELD UTD 0. **Att:** 24,686.

NORWICH 1 (Fox 57)
MAN CITY 1 (Quinn 58). **Att:** 16,626.

EVERTON 0
QPR 3 (Allen 27, 51, 88). **Att:** 17,089.

TOTTENHAM 1 (Anderton 81)
LEEDS 1 (Deane 53). **Att:** 31,275.

SWINDON 2 (Scott 44, Bodin 83 pen)
IPSWICH 2 (Wark 17, 63 pen). **Att:** 13,343.
● *John Wark marked his 600th appearance for Ipswich with two goals.*

CHELSEA 0
ARSENAL 2 (Smith 27, Wright 45 pen). **Att:** 28,839.

BLACKBURN 2 (Shearer 23 pen, 77)
SOUTHAMPTON 0. **Att:** 16,666.

SHEFFIELD WED 0
COVENTRY 0. **Att:** 23,379.

WEST HAM 2 (Martin 43, Morley 75)
OLDHAM 0. **Att:** 17,251.

NEWCASTLE 3 (Cole 4, 16, 30)
LIVERPOOL 0. **Att:** 36,374.
● *Newcastle striker Andy Cole scored his third hat-trick of the season.*

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Motherwell	17	9	5	3	23	14	23
Rangers	18	8	6	4	27	20	22
Abrerdeen	17	6	9	2	20	12	21
Hibernian	18	7	6	5	24	19	20
Celtic	17	5	9	3	21	15	19
Kilmarnock	18	5	8	5	18	18	18
Hearts	18	5	7	6	13	15	17
Dundee Utd	18	3	11	4	18	22	17
Partick	18	4	8	6	22	24	16
St Johnstone	18	4	7	7	17	24	15
Raith Rovers	17	2	9	6	20	32	13
Dundee	18	4	3	11	16	24	11

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 53, McKinlay 68)
ST JOHNSTONE 0. **Att:** 6,275.

ABERDEEN 1 (Shearer 12)
DUNDEE 0. **Att:** 12,500.

HIBERNIAN 0
HEARTS 2 (Colquhoun 40, 56). **Att:** 18,952.

PARTICK 1 (Craig 25)
RAITH ROVERS 1 (Cameron 64). **Att:** 4,774.

MOTHERWELL 2 (Kirk 57, Martin 78)
KILMARNOCK 2 (Mitchell 45, Porteous 51). **Att:** 7,384.

RANGERS 1 (McCoist 67)
CELTIC 2 (Collins 70, O'Neil 90). **Att:** 47,522.
● *Lou Macari's first League game as Celtic manager brings a win over rivals Rangers.*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

MIDWEEK

HEARTS 2 (McKay 72, Colquhoun 79)
RANGERS 2 (Hateley 11, 44). **Att:** 18,370.

PARTICK 0
HIBERNIAN 0. **Att:** 4,122.

WEEKEND

KILMARNOCK 0
RANGERS 2 (Ferguson 78, Huistra 86). **Att:** 19,162.

DUNDEE 3 (Pittman 6, Ristic 10, Ritchie 65)
HIBERNIAN 2 (Duffy 8 og, Wright 89). **Att:** 4,685.

CELTIC 3 (McGinlay 35, 72, Nicholas 54)
PARTICK 0. **Att:** 21,629.

RAITH ROVERS 0
MOTHERWELL 3 (Arnott 21, 81, O'Connell 79). **Att:** 4,443.

ST JOHNSTONE 1 (McGinnis 9)
ABERDEEN 1 (Booth 90). **Att:** 5,757.

HEARTS 1 (Johnston 43)
DUNDEE UTD 1 (O'Neil 64). **Att:** 8,362.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Bowman 26, McLaren 34)
RAITH 2 (Dair 57, Crawford 86). **Att:** 5,775.

ABERDEEN 1 (Grant 72 og)
CELTIC 1 (O'Neil 52). **Att:** 6,441.

HIBERNIAN 2 (Tweed 49, Hunter 80)
KILMARNOCK 1 (Brown 20). **Att:** 4,527.

RANGERS 3 (Fergusson 31, McCoist 33 pen, 44)
DUNDEE 1 (Rodos 66). **Att:** 38,477.

WEEKEND

DUNDEE UTD 2 (Brewster 21, McKinlay 45)
HIBERNIAN 2 (Jackson 51, Hamilton 80). **Att:** 6,880.

ABERDEEN 1 (Booth 1)
MOTHERWELL 1 (Kirk 4). **Att:** 11,500.

KILMARNOCK 2 (Williamson 21, Skilling 89)
CELTIC 2 (Nicholas 37, McGinlay 60). **Att:** 167,649.

ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Curran 88)
PARTICK THISTLE 3 (Craig 45, Britton 60, Grant 67). **Att:** 3,548.

RANGERS 2 (Hateley 61, 73 pen)
RAITH 2 (Dalziel 59 pen, Graham 79). **Att:** 42,681.

HEARTS 1 (Pittman 19 og)
DUNDEE 2 (Ritchie 8, Czachowski 66). **Att:** 7,681.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

HIBERNIAN 0
RANGERS 1 (Gough 31). **Att:** 16,393.

PARTICK THISTLE 0
KILMARNOCK 1 (Creanie 82). **Att:** 6,437.

DUNDEE 0
ST JOHNSTONE 1 (Moore 16). **Att:** 4,864.
● *Paul Sturrock's first game in charge of St Johnstone, having succeeded John McClelland as manager.*

MOTHERWELL 2 (Arnott 1, Kirk 66)
DUNDEE UTD 0. **Att:** 5,807.

CELTIC 0
HEARTS 0. **Att:** 25,981.

RAITH v ABERDEEN — *postponed*

CLUB FOCUS

FLUMINENSE

Experienced . . . Fluminense defender Lira.

Flounde

FLUMINENSE directors have an unenviable choice to make when deciding where to play their home matches.

The team traditionally play major games at Maracana Stadium. But performances in the past five years have been so bad that home gates are no longer enough to cover even half the costs of renting the 125,000-capacity ground. Attendances now average a mere 5,000.

The obvious answer would be to switch to Fluminense's own Laranjeiras ground. But there's a catch: a typical Fluminense performance enrages the fans so much that they throw stones at the windows in the ornate Victorian grandstand, leaving a repair bill which often turns out to be more costly than the rent for Maracana.

The windows have been smashed several times this year and for the time being the club prefer the expense of Maracana, ugly and big with a ridiculously high rent but at least built from reinforced concrete.

The fans feel that they have every right to be upset. A side who eight years ago had Branco, Ricardo Gomez, Edinho — all Brazilian internationals — and Julio Cesar Romero, one of the best ever to come from Paraguay, have now been reduced to a motley collection of unknowns.

Fluminense are near the bottom, their chances of reaching the last eight long gone.

The results have been doubly humiliating for a club where Rivelino once played, where one of the richest histories in Brazil was built up.

The quaint Larajeiras stadium, superbly set at the foot of mountains covered in lush forests with the statue of Christ visible in the far distance, looks more like an English cricket ground than a football venue.

Sadly, the directors have abandoned any pretence of rebuilding a team worthy of Fluminense's tradition, preferring to concentrate their energies on turning the club into a used player market. The directors have a monopoly on buying and selling (rarely does the manager have a say) and players are seldom bought because of any qualities they may add to the team.

The previous board went for individuals who would be able to resell a few months later for a handy profit.

The current board are little better. All too often they rent one of the numerous Brazilian players who belong to agents rather than clubs.

If things go well, the agent can convince a richer — preferably European — club to sign his player. If not, the player is led off to another Brazilian club.

Basically, the board allow agents to use the club as a shop window for players.

All this has resulted in a phenomenal turnover of players with little loyalty to the club and no chance for any of Fluminense's hapless managers to develop a pattern to their team.

Temperamental defender Andrei and striker Nilson, at their fifth and sixth clubs respectively, are but two examples of the board's policy.

Nilson's signing seems pointless when Fluminense already have a target man, Ezio, in exactly the same mould.

Andrei was spotted by some Brazilian newspapers putting his hair in place after Fluminense had conceded the second goal in a 2-0 defeat against Vasco da Gama. It was cited as a glaring example of the player's lack of commitment.

Given the difficulties, managers never last more than a few months. Edinho has had two attempts in two years and given up on both occasions.

The latest incumbent is Zico's brother, Edu Coimbra, who took over when Nelsinho, his predecessor, simply gave up and walked out in despair after watching the team lose 1-0 at home to Gremio in a Brazilian championship match.

Nelsinho found a new job at Bragantino within hours and, six days later, was relishing his new team's performance in a 5-1 win over Flamengo, ironically Fluminense's arch-rivals.

Fluminense fans must have been doubly infuriated to see who masterminded the win for Bragantino, a small club in the interior of Sao Paulo State. Two goals were scored by Silvio, and Domizete orchestrated the performance from midfield.

Fluminense, in their infinite wisdom, had sold both a couple of years ago. But while Bragantino flourish, making up for their lack of tradition with

good administration. Fluminense look doomed to struggle for the foreseeable future.

Perhaps the only consolation is that the team are free from the threat of playing in the Second Division. Not because they look capable of playing their way out of trouble but because Brazil's directors, in one of their many brainwaves, have decided to abolish relegation.

BRIAN HOMEWOOD

THE MANAGER

EDU COIMBRA.
A brave man. Brother of Zico, took over halfway through the first round of the Brazilian championship with Fluminense virtually eliminated. Has a limited squad at his disposal, no say in signing players, and restless fans who are not ready to accept excuses. His chances of success are akin to those of Rockall hosting the World Cup.

THE PLAYERS

NEY (Valdiney Cunha)
Goalkeeper
Aged 21 (born 1.10.72)
Has emerged from the club's junior divisions and turned professional last year.

PAULO SERGIO Coel Leite
Goalkeeper
Aged 21 (born 26.08.72)
Reserve to Ney and, like the first choice, a one-club player who turned pro last year.

JULIO CESAR Oliveira Rodrigues
Full-back
Aged 22 (born 10.12.71)
Joined at the start of the year. Although only 22, at his sixth club as a professional.

ANDREI Frascarelli
Defender
Aged 20 (born 21.12.73)
Has a powerful shot but suffers from disciplinary problems and often is unsettled.

JUNIOR MINEIOR (Jose Alves dos Santos Junior)
Defender
Aged 24 (born 29.7.69)
Solid central defender who joined the club from Belo Horizonte team America.

LIRA (Carlos Augusto Jose de Lira)
Full-back
Aged 33 (born 2.4.66)
A rarity in Fluminense as he has played for Brazil, though most of his seven caps were won when he was with Goias. Has scored some spectacular goals from long range.

MARCELO BARRETO Serralha
Defender
Aged 23 (born 1.8.70)
Another who has emerged from the club's youth divisions.

MARCIO Roberto Santos Ribeiro
Defender
Aged 21 (born 8.6.72)
Began his career with Fluminense and turned professional last year.

Carlos ANDRE Paz Schubert
Midfielder
Aged 26 (29.4.67)
Joined the club in August. Previous clubs — Gremio and Juventude. Good tackler but erratic passer.

Jose JERRY Correa
Midfielder
Aged 24 (born 31.5.69)
Joined from America (Rio) in August. Previously played for Cruzeiro.

DUDU (Carlos Eduardo Patocuci)
Midfielder
Aged 21 (born 10.2.72)
Reserve who has emerged from the club's junior divisions.

SERGINHO (Sergio Prestes da Silva)
Midfielder
Aged 28 (Born 22.8.65)
Another much-travelled player who has passed through Pinheiros, Gremio, Parana and Coritiba, all in the south of Brazil.

JULINHO (Julio Cesar Fernandes Granja)
Forward
Aged 24 (born 30.6.69)
Joined in 1991 from Bangu.

EZIO Leal Moraes Filho
Forward
Aged 33 (born 15.5.66)
Useful target man with the scoring knack but has found himself increasingly isolated up front. Previous clubs: Bangu, Olaria, Americano and Portuguesa of Sao Paulo.

NILSON Esidio
Forward
Aged 27 (born 19.11.65)
Along with Lira, the only one of the current squad to have played for Brazil, four caps. Lasted just six months at Flamengo. Other clubs include Corinthians, Internacional, Portuguesa and Celta Vigo of Spain.

ring!

Poor Flu fall to rock bottom

Edmundo
in another bust-up

EDMUNDO, Brazil's brilliant but explosive forward, is continuing to look hell-bent on destroying his career.

After being sent off five times this year and spending much of the remaining time bickering with Evair, his striking partner at Palmeiras, Edmundo (below) featured in another sorry chapter when he was involved in a furious row with another team-mate, defender Antonio Carlos.

The two argued on the pitch during the Brazilian championship semi-final derby with Sao Paulo and continued their feud in the dressing room after the game, exchanging pushes and hurling more insults.

They fell out after Antonio Carlos told Edmundo to come back and help cover for the absence of left-back Roberto Carlos, injured during the second half.

Edmundo, who had annoyed his team-mates several times by attempting dribbles instead of passing to a better-placed colleague, replied with a stream of abuse.

"He made offensive comments and that is something I will not accept," said Antonio Carlos after the game.

He then gave the crowd of radio and TV reporters a lecture on team spirit and concluded by saying: "My mother and father gave me an excellent upbringing. If his family didn't give him a proper education, that's not my problem."

Vanderlei Luxemburgo, the Palmeiras manager who has spent eight months trying to bring the wayward player under some sort of control, said he was not going to take action until the championship had finished.

"The two will just have to forget their differences, go out, play well and honour Palmeiras," he said.

Edmundo got nought out of 10 for the timing of his outburst, which came just as pressure was growing on Carlos Alberto Parreira to take a three-man attack to the World Cup — the three being Bebeto, Romario and Edmundo.

Parreira is not a fan of the three-man attack at the best of times, even less so when two of the three are prone to tantrums and bickering.

Edmundo's behaviour was an untimely reminder of what Parreira could be letting himself in for if he does change his mind.

Sao Paulo, who drew the Palmeiras match 1-1, had other worries. The match was their 90th of 1993 and they faced at least another seven in the remaining month, including the second leg of the final of the awful South American Supercup (against Flamengo) plus a trip to Tokyo to face Milan in the World Club Cup.

This meant they were back to playing three games a week, to allow them a decent amount of time in Japan before the Milan game.

In their first semi-final away to Guarani, Tele Santana fielded a reserve team to give the first choices a rest, yet Sao Paulo still won 1-0. It was a fitting testament both to their resilience and to Santana's amazing ability for developing young players to succeed such as Rai, Vitor and Pintado.

Those two results put Sao Paulo top of semi-final Group F, as it was called by the CBF — rather confusingly. There were only two semi-final groups: A,B,C,D had been the first-round groups.

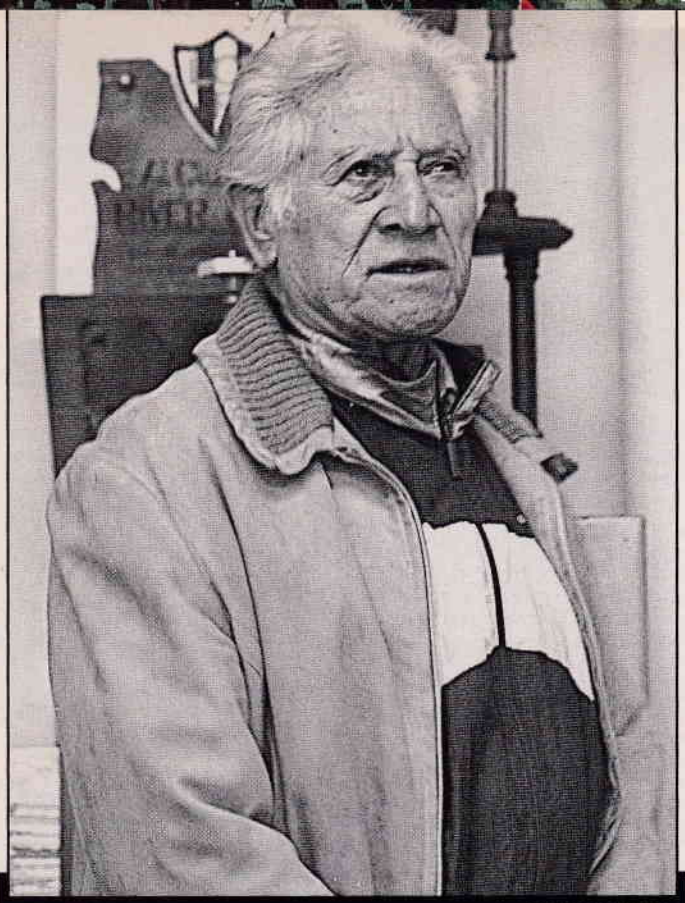
In Group E, Corinthians continued their irrepressible form by beating Santos 3-2 in their opening game. Corinthains were still unbeaten both in the championship and under manager Mario Sergio.

Renatos's year of woe continued when he gave away the penalty which led to Flamengo's defeat in their opening game, 1-0 to Vitoria. With only one team from each group making the final and with Vitoria supposedly the weakest team in their section, the defeat virtually spelt the end of Flamengo's chances of qualifying.

Renato has suffered miserably since rejoining Flamengo at the start of the year. He has been injured and is now struggling to win back his best form.

Fans, however, will be glad to know that his mouth is still in fine fettle. When he discovered that Flamengo would play Sao Paulo in the Supercup Final, he wasted no time in provoking Santana, who axed him from the Brazil squad before the 1986 World Cup in an act which appears to have earned Renato's eternal wrath.

"I'm going to make Tele Santana cry," he declared, with his customary lack of modesty.



BY ERIC WEIL

SPOTLIGHT ON
ADOLFO PEDERNERA

'People said we played well'

Pedernera is a master of modesty

ADOLFO PEDERNERA, centre-forward of River Plate when they had arguably the best club team ever in Argentina — is still there today at 75, as director of amateur soccer.

Most of the players who reach the senior squad pass through his hands, although there are not so many locals now, because River Plate do not go for home-bred players much these days.

It was different in the old days. The team became known as La Maquina — The Machine — in the late 30s, 40s and early 50s, when the forward line of Munoz, Moreno, Pedernera, Labruna and Loustau had played together from the junior divisions upwards.

By the time they reached the first team they knew each other so well they could play by ear — literally, because they often used to whistle to each other to organise moves.

That forward line played together 101 times in the First Division, and only 14 of those matches were lost.

"People used to say we played well," says Pedernera modestly when he remembers that time.

"We were lucky our soccer careers coincided at the same time. We all thought about the game and felt it the same way."

Modesty, they say, is a virtue, but this is overdoing it.

Jose Manuel Moreno was perhaps Argentina's best-ever player, famous for his nights out — often the night before a game. Pedernera's face lit up when I mentioned that.

> 'We were great friends and loved those nights . . . the girls, the tangos, playing cards. But we knew we were fit enough for this not to harm our game the next day. I think we played better for it'

"I was there with him," he confessed. "We were great friends and loved those nights, the girls, tangos, playing cards. But we knew we were fit enough for this not to harm our game the next day. I think we played better for it.

"We often discussed our game that night and things worked out right the following day."

But Pedernera had his off days, like any player. In one game nothing went right.

At half-time he went to change and when the others asked what he was doing, he said he was going home.

"But you'll leave us with 10 men," the captain said — this was in the days before substitutes.

They persuaded him to stay on, but he played no better in the second half.

In 1948, Pedernera was one of the players who was poached by the new Colombian professional league whose clubs were then not affiliated to FIFA and able to recruit players without paying transfer fees to their clubs.

England international Neil Franklin was another who went to Colombia seeking a fortune.

While Pedernera was playing for Millonarios he limped off the field to be examined, and a number of doctors had a meeting to decide what to do.

Finally they decided that the only solution was a cartilage operation. "That's strange," said Pedernera. "I had them taken out nine years ago."

The Colombian adventure soon turned sour, and La Maquina remains the highlight of Adolfo's career. There is no team to compare to it today . . . but Pedernera would not given an opinion.

"Yes, people said we played well," was all he would say.

PERU

Alianza still waiting

ALIANZA LIMA, the popular club without a title in 15 years, may have to wait a little longer.

After topping the table from the start of the season, they lost 1-0 to defending champions Universitario de Deportes. Two players from each side were sent off.

Universitario go top, with an unfinished game against Melgar pending. The first attempt was stopped by floodlight failure with Universitario leading 1-0.

URUGUAY

PENAROL beat traditional rivals Nacional 3-1 and were on the point of clinching the title with five games to go. Nacional, in fourth place, had no chance.

Contrary to what happens in other countries, the championship was suspended for two weeks before the vital Penarol-Nacional clash, so that they would reach the big game in good shape.

Yet Nacional and Penarol are still threatening not to enter next season's championship unless changes are made in the format . . . which the other smaller clubs oppose.

Gustavo Matosoas, the Uruguayan midfielder who plays in Brazil for Sao Paulo, was kidnapped by three men in the city, but later released because one of the kidnappers was a Sao Paulo fan. They kept his car and money.

VENEZUELA

UNFANCIED Trujillanos top the table, undefeated, after six games.

CHILE

COLO COLO, champions for three years until Cobreloa took the title last season, are running away with this season's title, six points ahead.

Early pacemakers and Cup-holders Union Espanola — now lining up defender Fernando Astengo (above), who had been banned by FIFA for Chile's 1989 World Cup walk-off — have dropped to fifth. Their recent vital match with Colo Colo (who won 2-1) ended in a free-for-all.

Diego's all smiles ... but the drop draws nearer

DIEGO MARADONA could hardly have wished for abetter return to the national team at 33, and 11 years after he had left the country to continue his career in Europe.

After signing for Newell's Old Boys of Rosario and spending a month getting fit, he finally got back into action and was called up by the national coach, Alfio Basile, after only one friendly and one competitive game.

Basile picked Diego for the World Cup final play-offs against Australia and gave him back the captain's armband.

Argentina struggled to draw the away leg 1-1. They struggled again as they won 1-0 at home, but at least they were through and Maradona was back for a fourth Cup.

But Maradona must have one doubt in his mind. When, last September, the candidates for his signature were narrowed down to Newell's and his first club, Argentinos Juniors, one of the considerations was which club had more chance of avoiding relegation.

Both were struggling — relegation is decided on average points obtained over the last three seasons — and Diego did not want to risk the drop.

Now Newell's are still winless at the bottom of the table, while Argentinos are halfway up.

With the opening tournament of the national championship virtually halfway over, there is no outstanding team.

Most have been giving erratic performances and there have been changes at the top virtually every week.

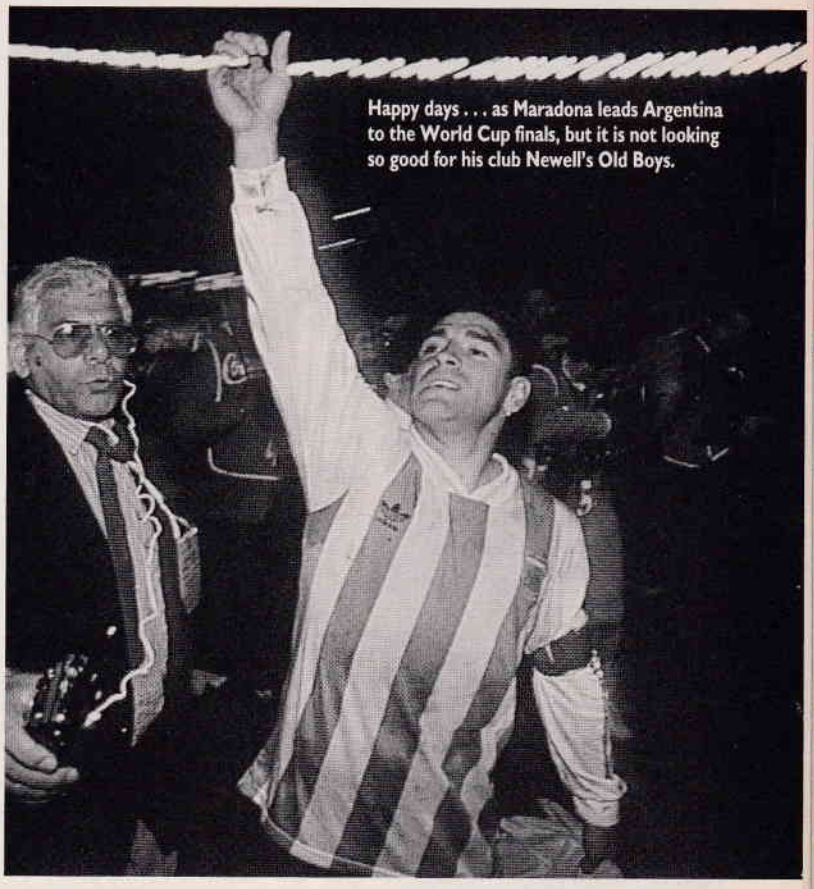
After nine of 19 games, last season's closing tournament winners, Velez Sarsfield, jointly top the table with unfancied Lanus, the only unbeaten team.

Boca Juniors have not been getting the results their experienced line-up merits, except for their 1-0 victory away to traditional Buenos Aires rivals River Plate.

Three victories in a row since then have catapulted River Plate to third place, a point behind the leaders. Nine goals in their last two games seem to indicate that they have hit a scoring vein which could get them the title in this short tournament.

With several clubs looking into the possibility of turning themselves — mainly their professional soccer section — into limited companies or corporations, the FA pronounced an emphatic "No".

An assembly of delegates voted 34-1 against changing the statutes to permit this. The only vote in favour came from Deportivo Mandiyu of Corrientes, sponsored and run by a textiles firm.



Happy days . . . as Maradona leads Argentina to the World Cup finals, but it is not looking so good for his club Newell's Old Boys.

COLOMBIA

Top coaches clash

INDEPENDIENTE of Medellin won the closing championship of the Colombian First Division, and jointly topped the overall standings with Atletico Junior.

The top eight clubs go into the final round, and the other finalists are Once Philips, Deportivo Cali, America, Millonarios, Nacional and Bucaramanga.

It was a close call all season for champions America and vice-champions Nacional. While playing in continental events such as the Libertadores and Super Cups they could not always do their best in the League, sometimes fielding weakened teams.

This brought into opposition coaches Francisco Maturana (America) and Hernan Gomez (Nacional) who work together with the national team. Their clash at a match which Nacional won 2-1 was hectic, and there were protests from the losers that they were robbed by the referee.

Finally both qualified a point ahead of Bucaramango, who scraped in on goals.

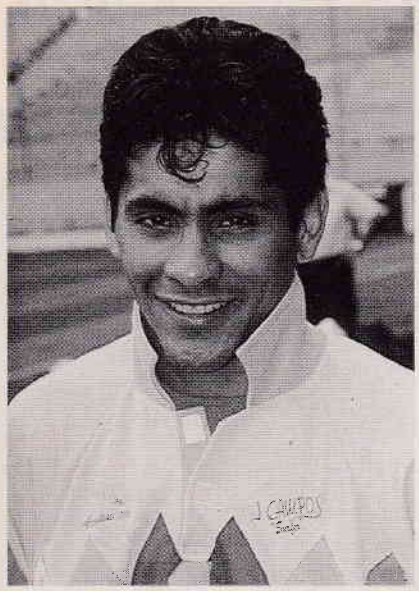
Atletico Junior of Barranquilla, starting with the highest number of bonus points in the final round, will be without striker Ivan Valenciano (right), who had a knee operation, for the rest of the season.

Pumpido pulls out

NERY PUMPIDO, one of Argentina's outstanding goalkeepers, has retired at 36. He played for River Plate and Velez Sarsfield during a 20-year career, plus a spell with Real Betis in Spain, and won 39 caps.

Pumpido (below) was a member of the team who won the 1986 World Cup Final, but broke a leg during his second game in the 1990 tournament, when he collided with a team-mate. This led to his replacement by Sergio Goycochea, who is still first choice.

MEXICO



Too colourful by far

MEXICAN goalkeeper Jorge Campos was a shining star at last year's South American Championship in Ecuador — not only for his daring forays upfield but also for his multi-coloured, fluorescent jersey.

Now he has been told by the Mexican Federation president, Marcelino Garcia Paniagua, that he must not wear this jersey in the World Cup finals, under threat of being left out of the team.

There has been at least one complaint from the opposition — by Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, who says the multi-coloured outfit blends into the crowd behind the goal.

But the real reason is that while Campos (above) has a contract with *Nike* to design and use their sportswear, the national team have a contract with *Umbro* and all players must wear their strip.

In the First Division Guadalajara and Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara are neck and neck with the best overall record, followed closely by America.

The format — the 20 teams play each other but are grouped in four sections from which the top two qualify for play-offs — is again being shown up as defective.

Newly-promoted Neza, trailing the two Guadaljara teams in Group 4, would top either of 1 and 2 with their record, but may not make the play-offs, in spite of losing the points against Santos because their stadium did not comply with safety standards.

PARAGUAY

Double act pays off

OLIMPIA, Paraguay's oldest club are now coached by two of their former internationals, goalkeeper Ever Almeida and defender Alicio Solalinde.

The pair helped them to win the second round of the championship unbeaten, and by five points.

A few days earlier they had beaten current champions Cerro Porteno on penalties (5-4) in the pending play-off for the top place in the first round after a 0-0 draw.

The top four of each round qualify for the final round with bonus points according to positions. As Olimpia and Cerro Porteno finished in the top four in both rounds, two other clubs with most aggregate points also go into the finals.

The eight play each other once and Olimpia start with four bonus points, Cerro Porteno with 2.25, Atletico Colegiales one, Guarani 0.75 and Sportivo Luqueno and River Plate with 0.50.

Francisco Ferreira (Luqueno) topped the scorers with 12.

TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division (opening championship)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lanus	9	4	5	0	13	6	13
Velez Sarsfield	9	6	1	2	11	5	13
River Plate	9	5	2	2	15	7	12
Independiente	9	4	3	2	15	8	11
Racing Club	9	4	3	2	8	5	11
Ferro Carril Oeste	9	4	3	2	7	9	11
San Lorenzo	9	4	2	3	12	11	10
Banfield	9	3	4	2	7	5	10
Boca Juniors	9	4	2	3	6	5	10
Platense	9	2	5	2	7	10	9
Argentinos Juniors	9	2	4	3	12	9	8
Deportivo Mandiyu	9	3	2	4	11	9	8
Rosario Central	9	2	4	3	7	10	8
Gimnasia Tiro	9	3	2	4	7	10	8
Belgrano	9	2	3	4	7	16	7
Gimnasia	8	2	3	3	5	6	7
Dep. Espanol	9	2	3	4	4	12	7
Huracan	8	1	3	4	5	7	5
Estudiantes	9	1	3	5	5	10	5
Newell's OB	7	0	3	4	6	14	5

BRAZIL
National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group A							
Corinthians	12	9	3	0	24	6	21
Sao Paulo	12	4	6	2	17	11	14
Internacional	12	5	3	4	15	15	13
Flamengo	12	5	3	4	14	15	13
Cruzeiro	12	5	2	5	17	12	12
Bragantino	13	2	8	3	16	14	12
Bahia	13	2	3	8	8	27	7
Botafogo	12	2	2	8	7	18	6
Group B							
Palmeiras	12	9	2	1	25	12	20
Santos	12	7	3	2	22	13	17
Guarani	12	5	5	2	17	12	15
Vasco da Gama	12	5	2	5	17	15	12
Gremio	12	4	3	5	14	16	11
Sport Recife	12	4	2	6	10	19	10
Fluminense	11	3	1	7	16	22	7
Atletico Mineiro	13	1	2	10	7	19	4
Group C							
Vitoria	13	8	2	3	22	12	18
Paysandu	13	6	5	2	13	8	17
Remo	13	7	1	5	25	16	15
Ceara	13	6	1	6	15	17	13
Santa Cruz	13	5	2	6	19	14	12
Nautico	13	4	4	5	14	19	12
Goias	13	2	5	6	12	22	9
Fortaleza	13	2	4	7	11	23	8
Group D							
Uniao Sao Joao	13	6	4	3	21	10	16
Parana	13	5	5	3	16	11	15
Portuguesa	13	6	3	4	20	16	15
America (BH)	13	4	5	4	18	18	13
Coritiba	13	3	7	3	10	12	13
Criciuma	13	5	3	5	17	20	13
At Paranaense	13	3	6	4	14	15	12
Desportiva	13	1	5	7	9	23	7

Top three teams of groups A and B and winners of groups C and D qualify for second round.

ECUADOR
First Division — final round

1) Nacional 10 pts; 2) Emelec, Barcelona 9; 4) Delgin 8; 5) Dep. Quito 7; 6) Cuenca 6; 7) Green Cross 5; 8) Liga Universitaria Quito 4.

PERU
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	25	15	6	4	37	16	36
Alianza Lima	26	16	6	5	63	32	36
Sport Boys	26	14	7	5	49	27	35
Sporting Cristal	26	15	4	7	63	25	34
Melgar	25	13	6	6	46	37	32
Dep. Municipal	26	11	7	8	38	28	29
Cienciano	26	10	8	8	26	30	28
Carlos Mannucci	26	11	6	9	33	33	28
Dep. Sipesa	26	9	8	9	32	33	26
Dep. San Agustin	26	8	7	11	29	40	23
Leon de Huanuco	26	5	12	9	23	32	22
Union Minas	26	5	9	12	19	45	18
Defensor Lima	26	6	6	14	34	47	18
Alianza Atletico	26	5	8	14	30	55	18
Union Huaral	26	5	8	16	30	60	17
UT Cajamarca	26	4	6	16	35	52	14

COLOMBIA
First Division — closing championship *(final)*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Indep. Medellin	30	16	7	7	49	28	39
Atletico Junior	30	14	7	9	57	47	35
Deportivo Cali	30	10	15	5	41	33	35
America	30	10	13	7	42	32	33
Once Philips	30	11	10	9	39	39	32
Envigado	30	10	12	8	31	30	32
Bucaramanga	30	10	11	9	37	35	31
Millonarios	30	9	13	8	33	28	31
Nacional Medellin	30	10	9	11	38	44	29
Pereira	30	8	12	10	31	38	28
Union Magdalena	30	10	7	13	38	37	27
Cucuta	30	10	7	13	39	27	27
Quindio	30	8	10	12	27	39	26
Ind. Sante Fe	30	7	12	11	43	45	26
Atletico Huila	30	7	11	12	30	41	25
Deportes Tolima	30	8	8	14	32	45	24

Overall standings (top eight in final round — bottom relegated): 1) Independiente Medellin, Atletico Junior 57pts; 3) Once Philips 52; 4) Dep. Cali, Millonarios 50; 6) America, Nacional 49; 8) Envigado, Bucaramanga 48 — *Bucaramanga qualify on goals;* 10) Pereira 44; 11) Atletico Huila 42; 12) Union Magdalena, Independiente Santa Fe 40; 14) Quindio 38;15) Cucuta, Tolima 36 — *Tolima relegated on goals.*

URUGUAY
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	19	15	2	2	45	12	32
Defensor	20	10	8	2	23	11	26
Danubio	19	11	4	4	24	15	26
Nacional	20	9	5	6	28	22	23
Progreso	20	5	11	4	20	19	21
Cerro	19	7	5	7	19	21	19
Bella Vista	20	6	5	9	18	21	17
Liverpool	19	5	6	8	11	18	16
Wanderers	19	6	6	7	17	21	16
River Plate	19	5	6	8	17	27	16
Rampla Juniors	19	3	8	8	13	23	14
Huracan Buceo	20	3	8	9	24	34	14
Racing Club	19	2	6	11	7	22	10

BOLIVIA
Professional League
First stage final standings —

Group A: 1) Wilstermann 13; 2) Ciclon 11; 3) San Jose 10; 4) Metalsan 5; 5) Petrolero 1.

Group B: 1) The Strongest 11; 2) Bolivar 10; 3) Universitario Potosi, Independiente 8; 5) Chaco Petrolero 3.

Group C: 1) Oriente Petrolero 10; 2) Guabira 9; 3) Blooming, Destroyers 8; 5) Universitario de Beni 5.

Metalsan, Petrolero, Universitario de Potosi, Chaco and Universitario de Beni eliminated from second stage.

PARAGUAY
First Division
(2nd round — final standings)

1) Olimpia 19pts; 2) Atletico Colegiales 14; 3) Cerro Porteno, Nacional, River Plate 12; 6) Cerro Cora, Guarani 11; 8) Sportivo Luqueno 10; 9) Presidente Hayes 9; 10) Libertad, Sol de America, Sport Colombia 8.

Top four qualify for final round together with top four of first round together with unplaced teams with most points for clubs who qualified in both rounds.

CHILE
First Division

1) Colo Colo 30 pts; 2) Cobreloa 24;3) Universidad de Chile, Antofagasta 23; 5) O'Higgins, Union Espanola, Universidad Catolica 21; 8) Provincial Osorno 19; 9) Temuco 18;10) Coquimbo Unido 17; 11) Melipilla 16; 12) Everton, La Serena 15; 14) Palestino 14; 15) Iquique 13; 16) Concepcion 12.

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Trujillanos	6	4	2	0	10
Tachira	6	4	0	2	8
Caracas	6	3	2	1	8
Maritimo	6	3	1	2	7
Mineros	6	3	1	2	7
Llaneros	6	3	1	2	7
Italia	6	3	1	2	7
Zamora	6	2	3	1	7
Minerven	6	2	2	2	6
Estudiantes	6	3	0	3	6
El Vigia	6	2	1	3	5
Valencia	6	2	1	3	5
Univ. de los Andes	6	2	1	3	5
Monagas	6	2	0	4	4
Maracaibo	6	1	2	3	4
Anzoategui	6	0	0	6	0

MEXICO
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Group 1							
Santos	13	5	5	3	20	18	15
Univ. Guadalajara	14	5	5	4	10	18	15
Necaxa	14	4	6	4	19	19	14
Puebla	13	3	6	4	15	17	12
Univ. Nuevo Leon	14	2	8	4	13	19	12
Group 2							
Leon	14	5	5	4	17	18	15
UNAM	14	5	3	6	24	18	13
Atlante	14	5	2	7	23	22	12
Morelia	14	5	2	7	23	22	12
Queretaro	14	1	6	7	11	24	8
Group 3							
America	14	9	1	4	29	22	19
Toluca	14	6	4	4	20	14	16
Cruz Azul	14	6	3	5	20	14	15
Correcaminos	14	3	5	6	12	18	11
Veracruz	14	2	4	8	17	30	8
Group 4							
UA. Guadalajara	14	6	8	0	17	7	20
Guadaljara	14	9	2	3	24	15	20
UT Neza	14	6	4	4	19	19	16
Monterrey	14	5	3	6	22	25	13
Atlas	14	4	4	6	16	18	12

Top two of each group qualify for play-offs.

HONDURAS
First Division

After 5 games: 1) Real Espana 8 pts; 2) Olimpia, Motagua 7; 4) Progreseno, Platense 4; 6) Victoria, Petrotela, Marathon, Real Maya 3;10) Vida 2.

EL SALVADOR
First Division

After 10 games: 1) Alianza 13; 2) Marte, Tuburoens 12; 4) Luis A. Firpo, FAS 11; 6) Baygon-ADET 10; 7) Municipal Limeno, Aquila 9; 9) Apaneca 7; 10) Cojutepeque 6.

GUATELMALA
First Division

After 8 games: 1) Municipal 14; 2) Sacachispas 12; 3) Izabal, Suchitepequez 10; 5) Mictlan, Amatitlan 9; 7) Chiquimulilla, Communicaciones 8; 9) Aurora 6; 10) Xelaju 5; 11) Escuintla 3; 12) Juventud Retalteca 2.

COSTA RICA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cartago	9	5	4	0	16	7	14
Heredia	9	6	1	2	14	5	13
Alajuelense	9	4	4	1	15	10	12
Limon	9	4	3	2	8	5	11
Ramonense	9	4	2	3	10	10	10
San Carlos	9	4	2	3	10	12	10
Puntarenas	9	2	4	3	11	11	8
Saprissa	9	2	4	3	11	13	8
Perez Zeledon	9	2	3	4	5	10	7
Carmelita	9	2	2	5	11	18	6
Belem	9	1	4	4	5	10	6
Turrialba	9	1	1	7	9	15	3

BROOKING TALKBACK

BBC Radio and TV commentator TREVOR BROOKING, the former England midfielder, answers your letters. . .

Rough on Roxburgh

DEAR TREVOR — Mark Irwin's recent article about Scotland was unduly critical of Andy Roxburgh and over-pessimistic about Scotland's future prospects.

Alan McInally was hardly the most appropriate person to comment: he's only played eight times for Scotland and usually badly (e.g. v Costa Rica in the last World Cup) and has not played in Scotland for a long time so is unaware of the players there.

For the national team of a nation of five million people to qualify for five successive World Cup Finals and the 1992 European Championship is a magnificent achievement.

Although the recent results have been disappointing, we were in the strongest group in Europe and like all the teams who played in Sweden '92 have played well below our best in the last two years.

Hopefully the friendlies organised in 1994 will see the start of a new Scotland with exciting young players like Jess, Booth, O'Donnell and Duncan Ferguson. Don't forget how successful the Under-21 team were in 1991/92.

— BRUCE RATCLIFF, Cadiz, Spain.

● SCOTLAND had an extremely difficult group, with Italy and Switzerland the countries eventually travelling to America, but that shouldn't overshadow the unacceptable fact that currently our home countries are just not good enough.

During the European Championship in Sweden, Scotland enjoyed tremendous acclaim for their efforts, and the expectancy generated then made the disappointment much greater now.

In the past Scotland often produced players with special flair. Over the past few years they have lacked the world class contingent any successful side requires.

No comparison

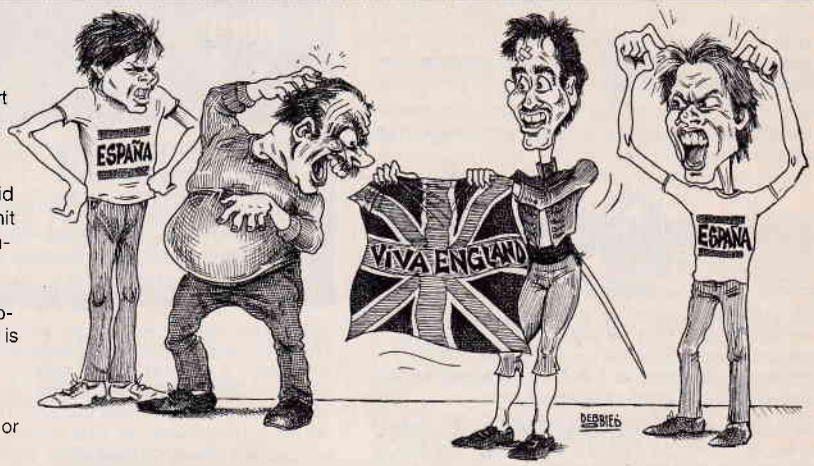
DEAR TREVOR — I am fed up with constant claims that the Premiership is the best league in the world.

How good is it compared with other European Leagues, ie Italy, France and Germany? And how well would teams like Manchester United, Arsenal or Aston Villa do in say Serie A? Would Ryan Giggs be as good in Italy?

— ANTONIO SCIBELLI, Woodston, Peterborough.

● ANYONE arguing against Italy's Serie A is going to have a difficult task proving their case. All three teams you mention are capable of coping quite adequately in Serie A, and Giggs would be a huge success if allowed to move to Italy.

Pain in Spain



DEAR TREVOR — I support English teams before Spanish. I did so with the national squad when they defeated Spain 4-2 in Madrid in 1987. I was spat on and hit with a stick but it was worthwhile being witness to Gary Lineker's four goals.

But I am very sad and disappointed now. English football is becoming second-class. Everybody hates it in Spain.

I want to know if you see a light at the end of the tunnel, or should I give up supporting English soccer? *— ROBERTO ADRADOS, Madrid, Spain.*

● DON'T desert us just yet, although I appreciate we must be testing your loyalty to the very limit! There is certainly a real danger of English football becoming second-class unless some fundamental policy decisions are taken.

We seem to have lost the art of creative midfield passing, as well as the ability to take on and dribble past defenders. It seems a wonderful opportunity to put into place a new innovative development plan to improve the skills and technique of our players.

Short term it should encourage more kids to switch to the clubs. Long-term the policy needs to formulate improved guidance for all those people running junior football, so they too are stimulated to help produce better-prepared youngsters.

Where now England?

DEAR TREVOR — I know you speak for a multitude who long for the return of skilled soccer to England.

We had the good fortune (or was it misfortune?) to view the Cup Final saga live. Then we had to endure the Holland v England game live! Where we (they!) go from here I do not know. I just hope they get their act together for the European Championship.

I have been fortunate to be at a few Arsenal home games during the past couple of decades. Outside Jimmy Bloomfield, George Eastham and Liam Brady, that there has been a dearth of skilled players at Highbury.

One Arsenal programme quoted George Graham bemoaning the attendance considering the relative high position of the team. George needs a reality check in economics! With UK unemployment at an all time high, the £11 price of a lower tier seat in the new North Bank is not going to recruit many new fans.

We can only hope for a revival of skills and a good World Cup in the US with 14.5 million playing the game at some level nationwide, something is going to happen! We have 22,000 kids playing here in these islands

— PAUL PERRETTA, Honolulu, Hawaii

● I SYMPATHISE totally with your comments about the decline in skill and have highlighted some of your concerns in other replies.

With regard to Arsenal, they are undoubtedly one of the most successful sides in England but continue to suffer only begrudging praise. Sometimes entertainment has suffered and it can be very disturbing to witness goalkeeper David Seaman throwing the ball ten yards out of his penalty area, and then advancing to punt upfield. Yet on occasions they can be as exhilarating as any side. Supporters crave for a creative midfielder like those you mention, but while George Graham continues to provide such outstanding results a major switch in style is unlikely.

Best of British?

DEAR TREVOR — I'm very disappointed that England failed to qualify for the World Cup finals.

I'm English and live and work in the US. I was looking forward to the English team coming over.

I still think England have the best league system in the world. I feel optimistic that England will do well in the next European Championship finals. The English always bounce back and now they have something to prove.

Imagine if the home countries combined the best players' from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Giggs, Rush, McCoist, Gascoigne and Platt up front, you couldn't ask for more scoring power.

— JAMES McFADDEN, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, US.

● WE all share the disappointment and it won't quite hit home completely until next summer when 24 other countries assemble in America. Our absence must not be dismissed as just one of those unlucky events. Considerable hard work is needed if progress is to be achieved.

On your final point about a possible British side, I accept the optimism you mention about team selection, but it is a move I would oppose. It would immediately reduce the international opportunity for our players, and so diminish our game still further.

Tell Trevor...

What you think about football's big issues. Now you don't even need to write a letter. Just pick up the phone

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and record your opinions, Trevor Brooking will answer a selection each month on this page.

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● Comments are Trevor Brooking's opinions and do not necessarily reflect *WORLD SOCCER'S* views. He will only answer those letters published.

Calls cost 36p minute chaep rate and 48p minute at all other times.

SATURDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: Ivory Coast miss a chance of securing their first appearance in the World Cup finals when they lose 4-1 away to Nigeria in an African Group C qualifier . . . Germany's top match, between stuttering big spenders Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, ends in a 1-1 draw . . . Portuguese champions Porto are jeered off by their fans after a 0-0 draw at home to Pacos Ferreira.

FRANCE: The Federation sets for Thursday a disciplinary hearing into the crowd trouble at Marseille the previous evening.

SUNDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: Zambia move within a point of the World Cup finals thanks to a 4-0 defeat of Senegal; Zimbabwe keep their own hopes alive by defeating Guinea 1-0 . . . Feyenoord maintain their 100 per cent record in Holland by defeating Go Ahead Eagles 1-0 . . . new disaster for Real Madrid as they fall 1-0 at home to Oviedo.

ITALY: Milan deny accusations from Marseille that, ahead of any formal decision by FIFA and UEFA, they have already booked their flights and hotel accommodation in Tokyo in preparation for taking over the World Club Cup date against Sao Paulo . . . Milan confirm speculation that Marco Van Basten is unlikely to play again this year after receiving a report on a further examination of his troublesome ankle by specialist Marc Martens.

MONDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER

NIGERIA: The national team's Dutch coach, Clemens Westerhof, says he wants to invite Norwich forward Efan Ekoku — who scored four goals against Everton at the weekend — to play for Nigeria in the World Cup.

POLAND: Andrzej Strejlau resigns as national manager. Assistants Leslaw Cmikiewicz and Jozsef Mlynarczyk, both former internationals, are appointed caretakers for the rest of the World Cup qualifying campaign.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA bans Marseille from participating in the World Club Cup against Sao Paulo and in the European Supercup against Parma. European runners-up Milan will take their place. FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says the ruling stemmed directly from the French Federation's own disciplinary action. He adds: "We have to protect soccer. We have to maintain order, respect and discipline worldwide." UEFA president Lennart Johansson says there is no prospect of Marseille being banned from European competition beyond this season. Defiant Marseille president Bernard Tapie says: "We will have our revenge. We will not die."

TUESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: Steaua Bucharest become the first club to reach the Champions Cup second round as they win 3-2 away to Croatia Zagreb and advance on the away goals rule. In the Cup-winners Cup Maccabi Haifa become the first Israeli side to reach a European second round when they defeat Moscow Torpedo 3-1 and 3-2 on aggregate.

ITALY: Azeglio Vicini, manager of Italy's 1990 World Cup team, is dismissed as coach of struggling Udinese after three successive defeats. Adriano Fedele takes over.

IRAQ: Romanian's Progresul Bucharest play a friendly against the Iraqi national team preparing for the Asian World Cup group play-offs in Qatar. Progresul are the first foreign side to visit Iraq since the lifting of a FIFA ban on visiting teams.

WEDNESDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER

ACTION: Barcelona hit back to beat Kiev in the Champions Cup first round returns but Rangers fall to Levski Sofia. All three European events are completed — bar one match, Valencia v Nantes, held over to Thursday in the UEFA Cup.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH:

EMIL KOSTADINOV. . .

for his two-goal ambush which wrecked France's World Cup qualifying dreams and even surprised his fellow Bulgarians.

FRANCE: Prime Minister Eduard Balladur says the French government is now swinging its support behind the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis as site for the new "Grand Stade" which will host the 1998 World Cup Final. Local government officials in Melun-Senart, 25 miles south of Paris and which was originally chosen for the stadium, say they will demand "reparations from central government."

GERMANY: German specialist advises Eintracht Frankfurt that immediate knee surgery is necessary for Ghanaian striker Anthony Yeboah. Originally it was thought the knee injury suffered against Dresden could be cured by rest but further X-rays revealed cartilage damage . . . Borussia Monchengladbach are ordered to replay their cup tie against Karlsruhe because the visiting goalkeeper, Oliver Kahn, was struck on the head and concussed by a chestnut thrown from the crowd. Kahn was later sent off in a game Borussia won 5-3 in extra time after trailing 2-0 and 3-1. Borussia were also fined £4,000. To complete a bad day for the club, they lose 2-0 at home to Stuttgart.

SPAIN: The Spanish Federation is cleared by FIFA of any suspicion over the outcome of Spain's 5-1 win in Albania following earlier reports that an agent had offered to fix the match for Spain.

THURSDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER

FRANCE: Marseille's ground is shut for one game as punishment for the crowd trouble which forced the 87th-minute abandonment of the league match against Metz.

GERMANY: Anthony Yeboah undergoes knee surgery which will keep him out of action for three months.

ITALY: Pasquale Bruno is banned for three games by the Fedration for throwing a punch in the players' tunnel after Fiorentina's game against Brescia; he is also fined £15,000 by his own club.

JAPAN: Japanese officials say that, if they qualify for the World Cup finals, they will celebrate with a match in Tokyo on December 21 against a Select XI whose squad will include one player from each of the other World Cup finalists.

FRIDAY, 1 OCTOBER

GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt's veteran midfielder Uwe Bein announces his retirement from international football, claiming too many of the players are selfishly concerned about their own careers and not enough about the national team.

ITALY: The FIGC says it will ignore a civil court order that near-bankrupt Catania should be reinstated in Serie C. An appeal date is set for October 20.

SATURDAY, 2 OCTOBER

ACTION: Alan Shearer ensures his England recall after knee injury by scoring two goals and making the other in Blackburn's 3-1 English Premiership win at Swindon . . . Marseille return to winning ways in France, Rui Barrios claiming the decisive late goal in a 2-1 success at Lille . . . Eintracht Frankfurt lead in Germany by three points after winning 2-0 away to Stuttgart while champions Werder Bremen draw 1-1 against bottom side Schalke . . . in Spain, Real Madrid end their losing league run by drawing 0-0 away to neighbours Atletico despite the expulsion of Rafael Martin Vazquez.

SUNDAY, 3 OCTOBER

ACTION: Ruud Gullit scores twice as Sampdoria win 4-1 at Atalanta and move within one point of Italian league leaders Milan, who are held goalless at home by Lazio . . . Bilbao beat Zaragoza 2-1 to edge one point ahead of Barcelona and Valencia in Spain.

FRANCE: Marseille president Bernard Tapie says he has just invested a further £800,000 from personal resources to help the club overcome the aftermath of the Valenciennes scandal.

ITALY: A crowd of 10,000 turn up in Catania even though the local club's game has been postponed by the Federation in the ongoing court row. An amateur team are called in to play a friendly which Catania win 4-0.

MONDAY, 4 OCTOBER

BELGIUM: HJK Helsinki loan international defender Aki Hyrylainen to Aalst of the Belgium until the end of this year.

DENMARK: National boss Richard Moller Nielsen names a squad of 14 for the World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland but delays a decision on recalling fit-again Flemming Povlsen until after watching him at the weekend.

FRANCE: State prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier opens a new inquiry, allied to the Marseille scandal, over allegations that president Bernard Tapie tried to bribe Jean-Jacques Eydelie to deny his original admissions of a central role in the Valenciennes match fix. Eydelie, it is now claimed, has told investigating judge Bernard Beffy that he met Tapie at his Paris apartment on September 17 and that Tapie offered him £25,000 a month for three years if he denied his earlier statements. Tapie's lawyer, Francis Debacker, confirms Tapie met Eydelie at the request of Eydelie's agent Rafael Santos but he said discussions centred only on match bonuses and salaries owed to Eydelie.

ITALY: The FIGC postpones two Third Division fixtures in an attempt to defuse the legal row over Catania who are not now expected to play again before the appeal court hearing over their exclusion from the championship grounds on October 20.

SCOTLAND: Former Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh is reportedly considering a post as technical director for UEFA.

SWEDEN: Star forwards Tomas Brolin and Johnny Ekstrom both refuse selection for Sweden's potentially decisive World Cup qualifier against Finland. Manager Tommy Svensson says he has been unable to persuade either player to change his mind. Brolin had told Svensson he did not feel his current form justified selection.

TUESDAY, 5 OCTOBER

ACTION: Germany lose 2-0 in Augsburg to an Imports XI in a charity match. Swiss striker Stephane Chapuisat scores both goals after 48 and 73 minutes.

FRANCE: League leaders Bordeaux are reported to be poised to buy 31-year-old Serb midfielder Boro Cvetkovic, formerly with Italy's Ascoli and who has been training with Bordeaux for the past week . . . yet another twist to the Marseille scandal. This time Jean-Jacques Eydelie says former general manager Jean-Pierre Bernes offered him £40,000 to go easy on Marseille when he played for Nantes last year. Bernes denies the allegation.

HOLLAND: Ruud Gullit, as expected, is overlooked as national boss Dick Advocaat names his squad for the World Cup showdown against England. Squad: Snelders, De Goey; De Wolf, Van Gobbel, R Koeman, F De Boer; R De Boer, Jonk, Wouters, E Koeman, Winter, Rijkaard; Overmars, Bergkamp, Roy, Bosman, Gillhaus.

ITALY: Paul Gascoigne, just recovering from a thigh strain, faces further inaction after twisting his left knee in training . . . Juventus say they expect Gianluca Vialli back in action within a month after breaking a bone in his foot . . . Jean-Pierre Papin is threatened with legal action by referee Patrick Anton for remarks Papin made about his handling of the Marseille v Metz league match.

WEDNESDAY, 6 OCTOBER

ACTION: Belgium beat Gabon 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up . . . Tunisia beat Belgian club Antwerp 1-0.

ARGENTINA: Nery Pumpido, Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning goalkeeper, retires. He is 36 and played for Union Santa Fe, Velez Sarsfield, River Plate and Betis of Spain.

BULGARIA: Police in Stara Zagora say Stefan Bachev of bottom club Yantra and Ognyan Radev of Beroe Stara Zagora have been charged with match-fixing. Beroe beat Yantra 2-0 at the weekend.

FRANCE: Referee Partick Anton refuses to drop a libel suit against Jean-Pierre Papin despite receiving an apology from the Milan striker from criticism of Anton's handling of the Marseille-Metz game . . . judicial authorities in Nantes open an inquiry into claims that Marseille tried to fix a match against Nantes in 1992 . . . the government approves proposals to step up jail terms and fines on football hooligans.

HOLLAND: Stanley Menzo (below), former Holland goalkeeper, has been transfer-listed by Ajax with whom he is now reserve to Edwin Van der Sar.

POLAND: The Cup match between Stilon Gorzow and Slask Wroclaw is abandoned in the 87th minute when Slask fans

invade the pitch. Stilon were leading 1-0 at the time. Police arrest two suspects after the match.

ROMANIA: Rapid Bucharest sack trainer Marcel Puscas in the wake of UEFA Cup eliminbation by Internazionale. Favourite to take over is Viorel Hizo of Inter Sibiu.

SWITZERLAND: Croat midfielder Ante Markovic scores both goals on his debut as Young Boys win 2-1 away to FC Zurich. Markovic, 22, is on loan from Inter Zaprisa.

THURSDAY, 7 OCTOBER

ACTION: Saudi Arabia beat Russia 4-2 in a friendly in Riyadh which sees Russian striker Yuran miss a penalty.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona scores the winner as Newell's Old Boys beat Emelec of Ecuador 1-0 in the friendly arranged for the occasion.

BELGIUM: Goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme, substituted after hurting an ankle in a friendly against Gabon on Wednesday, says he expects to be fit for the World Cup qualifier against Romania . . . champions Anderlecht sign Maciej Terlecki, 16-year-old son of former Poland international Stanislaw Terlecki.

BRAZIL: Palmeiras and Vasco da Gama are ordered to replay their championship match in Sao Paulo. The first attempt failed when Vasco did not turn up though Palmeiras, the referee and the crowd were present in the stadium. Vasco had won a court order for a postponement because they had had to play 48 hours earlier.

FRANCE: Midfielder Didier Deschamps denies reports of his imminent transfer to Italy . . . Auxerre winger Pascal Vahirua pulls out of France's World Cup squad to play Israel after breaking his jaw in Wednesday's 1-0 defeat by Le Havre. Nantes winger Reynald Pedros takes his place.

GERMANY: League leaders Eintracht Frankfurt borrow rusty Radmilo Mihailovic from Schalke to cover the injury absence of Anthony Yeboah. IRAQ: The national team fly to Qatar for the World Cup qualifying showdown being urged by Bagdad newspapers to "fight to the death for a passport to the land of Uncle Sam."

ITALY: Lazio striker Pierluigi Casiraghi passes a late fitness test and is called into Italy's squad for the World Cup qualifier against Scotland. Also recalled, after 18 months out, is Parma midfielder Gianfranco Zola. Out injured are Milan's Albertini, Lentini and Maldini, Lazio's Signori and Fuser, plus Sampdoria midfielder Evani.

PORTUGAL: Estrela Amadora sign Senegal international Mame Birame Mangane, 23, from Diaraf of Dakar.

SCOTLAND: Liam Brady quits as manager of Celtic. Assistant Joe Jordan takes over as caretaker.

FRIDAY, 8 OCTOBER

ACTION: Nigeria qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time after drawing 1-1 with Algeria in Algiers. Ajax's George Finidi scores the historic goal . . . a Palestine national team beat a celebrity team from the Varietes Club de France including Michel Platini, Alain Giresse and tennis player Yannick Noah by 1-0 in Jericho.

FRANCE: Bernard Tapie says that Marseille's debts are much lower than reports. He says the current figure is 8million with similar projected losses on the present season but measures were in place to reduce that figure . . . Jocelyn Angloma reports fit to return to duty after a leg fracture.

ITALY: Police estimate at 300 the angry Lazio fans who reacted to the cup defeat by Avellino by invading the club's training ground, confronting coach Dino Zoff and kicking at the cars of players on their way out.

SCOTLAND: Joe Jordan resigns as caretaker manager one day after the departure of Liam Brady as manager. Jordan had been Brady's No 2 for three months.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA tells German clubs Borussia Dortmund and Nurnberg to release Swiss players Stephane Chapuisat and Alain Sutter immediately for the World Cup qualifier against Portugal, after a protest from Swiss officials. The clubs had intended using the players in tonight's matches.

UNITED STATES: Five players Tony Meola, Desmond Armstrong, Chris Henderson, Dominic Kinnear and Brad Friedel signed World Cup agreements with the USSF, bringing all 20 players at the Mission Viejo training camp under contract.

SATURDAY, 9 OCTOBER

ACTION: Eintracht Frankfurt beat Leipzig 2-1 with a late Furtock goal to set a best-ever season's start in Germany of 20 points from 11 matches.

BULGARIA: Yantra are expelled immediately from the top divsion and fined 5,000 for trying to fix a recent game against Beroe Stara Zagora. The club will be automatically relegated at the season's end . . . manager Dimitar Penev includes eight members of Levski Sofia's European Cup side in his squad for the World Cup qualifier against Austria in Sofia. Squad: Mikhailov, Popov. Kremenliev, Tzvetanov, Slavchev, Ivanov, Yankov, Khubchev, Angelov. Lechkov, Todorov, Balakov, Borimirov, Donkov, Stoichkov, Penev, Sirakov, Kostadinov, Alexandrov.

FRANCE: Marseille confirm that two players are to be sold soon to resolve the club's immediateb cash-flow problems in the wake of international expulsion after the match-fix scandal. Alen Boksic, already due to join Lazio at the season's end, is favourite to move in November.

GERMANY: Werder Bremen's Bernd Hobsch, a groin strain victim in league action on Friday, withdraws from Germany's squad for the friendly against Uruguay . . . newly-converted Bayern Munich sweeper Lothar Matthaus is voted Player of the Month.

SUNDAY, 10 OCTOBER

ACTION: Morocco and Cameroon qualify for the World Cup finals thanks to respective victories over Zambia (by 1-0) and Zimbabwe (by 3-1) . . . most of Europe's major leagues are inactive because of World Cup preparations.

MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER

ZAMBIA: Officials of the ZFA protest to FIFA about the refereeing of Diramba of Gabon in their weekend World Cup defeat by Morocco. The ZFA blame Diramba for allowing the decisive goal and want FIFA to order a replay.

TUESDAY, 12 OCTOBER

ACTION: Greece win 3-1 in Luxembourg in an advanced World Cup qualifier.

ARGENTINA: Australia's Ambassador, Hugh Wyndham, denies press reports from Sydney that Diego Maradona will not receive a visa if, as is now virtually certain, he is added to Argentina's squad for the World Cup play-off.

DENMARK: Richard Moller Nielsen makes a late call for uncapped defender Carsten Dethlefsen to deputise for injured Kim Christofte in the squad for Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Northern Ireland.

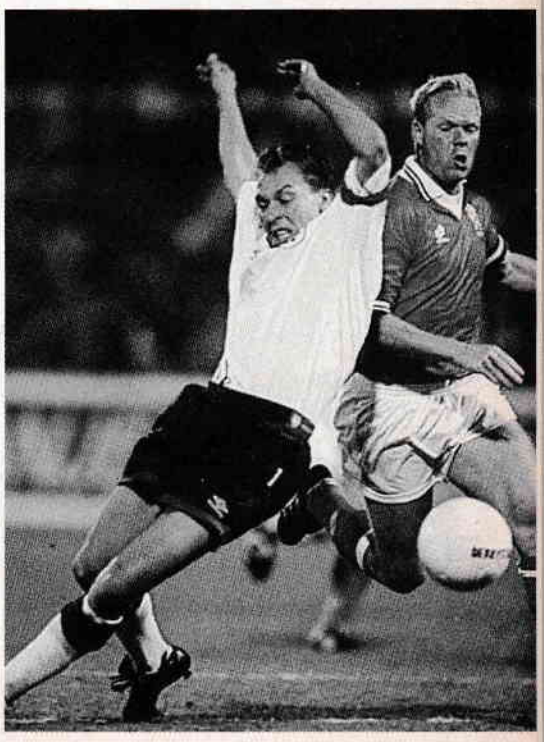
GERMANY: Jorg Berger takes over at bottom club Schalke after Helmut Schulte becomes the first top-fligjht casualty of the season and the 199th in the history of the Bundesliga.

ITALY: Fraud squad officers raid the offices of top clubs including Juventus, Torino, Milan and Internazionale in the hunt for documents detailing the use of transfers of top foreign players as a cover-up for tax evasion.

SENEGAL: All Senegalese teams are withdrawn from international competition by Sports Minister Ousmane Paye after he sacks the federation executive and orders a 'restructuring' of domestic football. The only exception will permit the national team to compete in the African Nations finals in Tunisia in March.

WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER

ACTION: A busy night of World Cup which sees Norway qualify for the finals by winning 3-1 in Poland and Sweden qualify courtesy of their own 3-2 victory over Finland France's shock, simultaneous 3-2 home defeat by Israel. England are virtually eliminated after losing 2-0 (below) amid ➤



TEAM OF THE MONTH:

GALATASARAY . . .

for upsetting the Champions Cup odds in dismissing Manchester United.

controversy in Holland . . . Germany beat Uruguay 5-0 in a friendly in Karlsruhe; the US draw 1-1 with Mexico in Washington.

FRANCE: Marseille agree the sale to Lazio of Croat striker Alen Boksic for 8million to wipe out the club's immediate debts. Boksic cost Marseille 'only' 900,000 two years ago from Hajduk Split.

HOLLAND: Dutch police round up more than 600 England fans after 36 hours of trouble in both Amsterdam and Rotterdam.

HUNGARY: The federations of Hungary, Austria and the Czech and Slovak Republics plan a joint bid to host the European championship finals in 2000 or 2004.

UNITED STATES: The American Soccer League says APSL teams will play a full-season, 20-match season next year after the end of the World Cup. APSL president William De La Pena says it has seven confirmed clubs, including Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver from Canada, with Seattle among newcomers under consideration.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

ACTION: Eight players — four from each side — are sent off by Colombian referee J J Torres as Gremio beat Penarol 2-0 in the South American Supercup preliminaries.

AUSTRALIA: Immigration authorities granted a visa for Diego Maradona to play in the World Cup tie in Sydney on October 31. In Buenos Aires, Argentina manager Alfio Basile says Maradona will be in the starting line-up.

ENGLAND: FA executives say the FA Cup may have to be sponsorsed to cover financial losses stemming from England's likely failure to qualify for the World Cup finals.

ITALY: Paolo Mantovani, president who transformed Sampdoria into one of the best teams in Italy and Europe, dies aged 63 after heart trouble . . . Milan confirm reports that they are considering a bid for Marseille defender Marcel Desailly.

RUSSIA: Moscow Spartak retained the league title with four matches to play after drawing 1-1 with Okean Nakhodka. They lead second-placed Rotor Volgograd by 10 points.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA orders that all decisive European World Cup qualifying matches on November 17 must take place simultaneously within each group.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

ACTION: The World Cup's long-awaited Asian play-offs begin with drama in Qatar as North Korea hit back from 2-0 down in the last 20 minutes to beat Iraq. Then favourites Japan are held goalless by Saudi Arabia even though the Saudis' veteran forward, Majid Abdullah, goes off injured.

AUSTRALIA: Eight European-based players are named in the World Cup play-off squad to face Argentina. They are Zelic of Dortmund, French-based forwards Frank Farina and Robbie Slater, Dutch-based Jason Van Blerk and Milan Blagojevic and Dominic Longo, Graham Arnold and Aurelio Vidmar, all of whom play for Belgian clubs. Striker David Mitchell, free after leaving Turkish club Altay Izmir, is also in.

BELGIUM: Lierse buy Norway striker Jahn Ivar Jakobsen from Germany's MSV Duisburg — just four months after he moved there from Young Boys Bern.

FRANCE: Marseille, despite everything, persuade defender Eric Di Meco to extend his contract by a further two years through to 1996.

GERMANY: Leaders Eintracht Frankfurt suffer their first defeat of the season by 1-0 away to MSV Duisburg.

SWITZERLAND: The Swiss federation announces that its centenary celebrations in 1995 will include a six-nation tournament spread over 10 days in Basel, Bern, Lausanne and Zurich.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

ACTION: South Korea beat Iran 3-0 in the World Cup Asian finals . . . the US lose 2-1 to Ukraine in North Carolina . . . in France, Paris Saint-Germain win 1-0 at Metz to go clear at the top; Marseille suffer another match abandoned, this time at Montpellier due to a waterlogged pitch . . . Portuguese leaders Sporting drop their first point of the season in a goalless draw away to Gil Vicente . . . Spanish leaders Barcelona lose their unbeaten record, going down 1-0 to La Coruna for whom Bebeto scores his goal of the season; Atletico president Gil blames coach Jair Pereira for ignoring his advice before the 2-1 defeat by Real Sociedad.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

ACTION: Tunisia beat Iceland 3-1 . . . Eastern of Hong Kong beat Yomiuri of Japan 1-0 in the first round, first leg of the Asian Club Championship . . . Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi concedes his first league goal of the season in a 1-1 draw with Foggia; Giuseppe Signori, in only his second game of the season, converts a decisive last-minute penalty as Lazio beat Piacenza 1-0 in a game which sees three players sent off; also sent off is Parma's Faustino Asprilla in a 0-0 draw against Cremonese.

BURMA: Seven people and killed and 45 injured when two grenades are thrown into a crowd at a village match in Ye, 150 miles south-east of Rangoon. Karen separatist rebels are suspected.

GERMANY: Gunter Eichberg quits as president of bottom club Schalke.

QATAR: Iraq, beaten 3-2 by North Korea in their opening World Cup Asian tie, send for Ahmed Baba, manager of Iraq at the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, to rebuild morale and team spirit . . . FIFA secretary Sepp Blatter says that Asian will gain an extra, third, team at the World Cup finals in 1998 if its teams in the US make a positive impression.

SPAIN: Valencia drop captain Lubo Penev for not returning on time from Bulgaria's World Cup qualifier in Sofia in mid-week — and lose 2-0 to Logrones. Penev claims he was unable to obtain a seat on a return flight from Madrid to Valencia and decided to spend the night in the capital.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

ACTION: Saudi Arabia beat North Korea 2-1 in the World Cup Asian play-offs then Iran record their second victory, beating Japan 2-1.

BARBADOS: Three Barbadian youth internationals face possible two-year bans after failing dope tests which showed traces of marijuana.

BELGIUM: Anderlecht report striker Marc Degryse may be fit, after all, for the Champions League — if they qualify — after tearing a leg muscle early in September.

global TRANSFERS

(Loan moves in italics)

Dariusz **ADAMCZUK**	M	Dundee	Udinese
Augustin **AHIMFUL**	F	Goldfields (Gha)	Borussia Dortmund
Patrik **ANDERSSON**	D	Blackburn Rovers	Borussia Mg
Dave **BEASANT**	G	Chelsea	Southampton
Wayne **BIGGINS**	F	Barnsley	Celtic
Lars **BOHINEN**	F	Lillestrom	Nottingham Forest
Aziz **BOUDERBALA**	M	Estoril*	St Gallen
Harald **CERNY**	F	Bayern Munich	Admira-Wacker
Marcel **DESAILLY**	D	Marseille	Milan
*Lajos **DETARI***	*M*	*Ancona*	*Genoa*
Peter **DISZTL**	G	Servan (Malay)	BVSC (Hun)
Gordon **DURIE**	F	Tottenham	Rangers
Tim **FLOWERS**	G	Southampton	Blackburn Rovers
Paulo **FUTRE**	F	Marseille	Reggiana
Micky **HAZARD**	M	Swindon Town	Tottenham Hotspur
Thomas **HELVEG**	D	OB Odense	Udinese
Jahn **JAKOBSEN**	F	MSV Duisburg	Lierse
Donald **KHUSE**	M	Kaizer Chiefs (SA)	Genclerbirligi
Johnny **MOLBY**	M	Borussia Mg	Mechelen
Brian Steen **NIELSEN**	D	OB Odense	Fenerbahce
Roger **NILSEN**	D	Viking Stavanger	Sheffield United
Andy **PAYTON**	F	Celtic	Barnsley
Tore **PEDERSEN**	D	Brann Bergen	Oldham Athletic
Gordan **PETRIC**	D	Partizan Belgrade	Dundee United
Mark **ROBSON**	F	West Ham	Charlton Athletic
Agent **SAWU**	F	Zimbabwe	Grasshopper Zurich
Nestor **SENSINI**	D	Udinese	Parma
Keith **SCOTT**	F	Wycombe Wanderers	Swindon Town
*Anderson **DA SILVA***	*F*	*Servette*	*Marseille*
Mark **STEIN**	F	Stoke City	Chelsea
Danny **WALLACE**	F	Manchester United	Birmingham City

** Bouderbala was out of contract for four months, but his last club was Estoril.*

Paulo **FUTRE**

WHAT'S ON

DECEMBER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12
Champions League: Barcelona v Monaco, Moscow Spartak v Galatasaray, Werder Bremen v Anderlecht.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18
International: US v Germany.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19
1994 World Cup finals draw (Las Vegas).

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22
International: Mexico v Germany.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19

ACTION: Iraq sack manager Adnan Dirjal, bring in 1986 World Cup boss Ahmed Baba, and draw 2-2 with South Korea in their second match in the World Cup Asian finals in Qatar . . . a night of action in the UEFA Cup second round sees Norwich score a 2-1 victory over Bayern in Munich.

AUSTRALIA: Aussie clubs will compete in next year's Asian cup competitions as the latest move in the gradual merger of Oceania into Asia.

ENGLAND: Nottingham Forest are poised to sign Norway World Cup star Lars Bohinen from Lillestrom.

FRANCE: Manchester United's Eric Cantona is reported as threatening to boycott France's World Cup decider against Bulgaria in protest at the behaviour of the Parc des Princes crowd in the defeat by Israel . . . Bernard Tapie and his wife Dominique are questioned by the judge investigating the Valenciennes match-fixing scandal over allegations that Marseille's president tried to bribe Jean-Jacques Eydelie to retract his confession . . . the French government says £300million funding has been procured to go ahead with building the new World Cup stadium in Saint-Denis.

GERMANY: FIFA referee Karl-Josef Assenmacher, centre of controversy in the Holland v England World Cup tie, is dropped by FIFA from the November 17 tie between Belgium and Czechoslovakia becvause of his blunders . . . Franz Beckenbauer suggests Kevin Keegan would make an excellent new England manager because people trust him.

MEXICO: National keeper Jorge Campos is warned by the Federation that he will be dropped from the World Cup squad unless he abandons his famous fluorescent pink strip in favour of a jersey provided by the FA's own sponsor.

PORTUGAL: Benfica issue £2,000-a-time gold cards for sale to fans to encourage them to loan the club cash to help resolve the financial crisis. In return, the cards give holders the right to free entry for a year for all Benfica's home matches in domestic and European competition.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA's rejects Zambia's appeal for a replay of their World Cup qualifier against Morocco.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

ACTION: Manchester United scramble a 3-3 draw at home against Galatasaray, the major shock in the Champions Cup on a full evening of second-round action.

AUSTRALIA: Diego Maradona aims a kick at a TV cameraman filming him leaving his Sydney hotel to train with the Argentinian World Cup squad. Maradona then apologises.

BRAZIL: Colombian striker Fredy Rincon agrees to join Palmeiras next January from America Cali.

CHINA: Chinese officials say they will introduce professional football to help develop the game to try to qualify for the 2002 World Cup, suggesting they will not seek to challenge Japan's lead in the race to gain hosting rights.

ITALY: Parma's Faustino Asprilla is banned for two games after being sent off in last week's draw with Cremonese. Lazio's Luca Luzardi and Roberto Cravero are banned for two and one game after being dismissed against Piacenza.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

ACTION: Japan regain some World Cup initiative in the Asian finals by defeating North Korea 3-0 in Doha.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid dismiss Brazilian coach Jair Pereira after just seven league matches in charge. Ramon Heredia, caretaker at the end of last season, is recalled in the same role once more by president Jesus Gil.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

ACTION: Iraq win the 'Mother of all football matches,' beating Iran 2-1 in Qatar in the Asian finals of the World Cup. In the day's other match, South Korea draw 1-1 with Saudi Arabia.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA name Hungarian Sandor Puhl to referee the first leg of the World Cup play-off between Australian and Argentina in Sydney. The return, in Buenos Aires, will be refereed by Denmark's Peter Mikkelsen.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

ACTION: Manchester United extend their lead in England to nine points after winning 1-0 at Everton . . . French leaders Paris SG maintain their bid by winning 1-0 at Cannes . . . Bayern Munich recover from their UEFA Cup upset by Norwich in a 2-2 draw away to leaders Eintracht Frankfurt.

QATAR: FIFA caution the Saudi delegation at the Asian World Cup finals and warn their fans may be banned from future matches if there is any repetition of the pitch invasion which occurred against South Korea.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

ACTION: Iraq draw 1-1 with Saudi Arabia in the day's only game in the World Cup Asian finals. Police with dogs are needed to calm tempers in the crowd after Saudi fans use shoes, water bottles and King Fahd posters as missiles . . . Guinea reach the finals of the African Nations Cup after beating Burundi 5-4 in a penalty shoot-out after a 0-0 draw in their qualifying play-off in Libreville, Gabon . . . Gimnasia y Tiro de Salta finish with eight men after having three players sent off in a 1-0 Argentinian league defeat by River Plate . . . the Greek derby between AEK and Olympiakos is halted in the 83rd minute when the AEK floodlights fail because of a general power cut . . . in Glasgow, Ally McCoist completes his comeback after a broken leg by appearing as substitute to score the late winner for Rangers in the League Cup Final against Hibernian . . . Barcelona stayed top in Spain after a 1-0 win over Oviedo.

SPAIN: Real Madrid Sports Club is revealed as having debts of 40million by the accounts but president Ramon Mendoza tells the annual meeting of members that this does not represent a financial crisis. He admits that redevelopment of the Estadio Bernabeu, taking capacity from 90,000 to 105,000, had cost much more than estimated.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25

ACTION: A bad day for Korea in the Asian World Cup finals: Japan beat South Korea 1-0 while Iran beat the North 2-1.

BELGIUM: Standard Liege dismiss Arie Haan after two three-goal defeats in four days by Arsenal and Anderlecht.

GERMANY: The DFB decides to investigate a report that Schalke's former president, Gunter Eichberg, gave top referee Manfred Neuner a sporting gun worth around £13,000 for controlling his 100th Bundesliga match in March, 1992 . . . Schalke consider legal action against the magazine *Der Spiegel* for a report alleging financial irregularities.

QATAR: Saudi Arabia dismiss their Brazilian coach Jose Candido for "incompetence." It emerges he ignored an order from one of his royal bosses to substitute his goalkeeper immediately after Iraq's first-minute goal on Sunday . . . Romanian referee Ion Craciunescu, who sent off two players and booked six others in Friday's Iran-Iraq clash, is dropped by FIFA for the rest of the Asian finals.

ROMANIA: Rapid Bucharest appoint Viorel Hizo as new coach.

TUESDAY, JULY 26

ACTION: Liechtenstein lose 2-0 at home to Estonia . . . in the European Under-21s there are wins for Turkey (1-0 v Poland), Czechoslovakia (2-0 v Cyprus), Hungary (2-0 v Luxembourg) and Israel (6-0 v Austria).

FRANCE: Bernard Tapie says he will quit as president of Marseille before the season's end to concentrate on politics.

GERMANY: Borussia Moenchengladbach, ordered to replay their third round cup victory over Karlsruhe because of crowd problems, win again — this time by 1-0.

ITALY: Ruud Gullit says he hopes to end his national team retirement if Holland qualify for the World Cup finals and Johan Cruyff takes over from Dick Advocaat as head coach.

QATAR: Saudi Arabia appoint ex-youth coach Mohamed Al Khrashi as manager in place of sacked Jose Candido two days before the decisive last World Cup tie against Iran.

SCOTLAND: Celtic appoint Stoke's Lou Macari, a former Celtic player, as new manager in succession to Liam Brady.

SPAIN: Barcelona striker Romario agrees to undergo a minor operation on his left eye during the Christmas holiday.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27

ACTION: World Cup victories for Turkey (2-1 v Poland), Czechoslovakia (a significant 3-0 v Cyprus) and Hungary (1-0 v Luxembourg) while Israel and Austria draw 1-1.

AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna face closure by the end of the year after *Bank Austria* serves notice of its intention to dump a 37 per cent stake it inherited when it took over a private bank.

BULGARIA: Levski's players relent over their threatened boycott of the decisive World Cup qualifier against France.

GERMANY: National coach Berti Vogts admits that, despite his new open-ended contract, he will consider quitting if Germany disappoint in their World Cup defence next year . . . the DFB denies having switched the Germany v England friendly next April from Munich to Hamburg so as to avert potential trouble from neo-Nazis celebrating Hitler's birthday.

ITALY: Giant-killing success is the order of the evening in the second round of the Italian Cup for Venezia (v Juventus), Ancona (v Napoli) and Avellino (v Lazio) . . . Milan decide to admit under-14s free for the Champions Cup return against FC Copenhagen after their 6-0 win in Denmark.

QATAR: US '94 security chief Ed Best dismisses fears that Iraq and/or Iran might be refused entry for the World Cup finals if they qualify from the Qatar Asian finals. He says: "It is my understanding we will welcome any qualifiers."

SWITZERLAND: FIFA says 22 referees plus 22 linesmen will be appointed to the World Cup finals. A squad of 26 referees and 24 linesmen will be chosen to attend a training camp in Dallas in March and selection will be made after fitness tests.

OBITUARY

MARIO CECCHI GORI, film-maker and president of Fiorentina, dies aged 72. Cecchi Gori took over Fiorentina in 1990 from the Pontello family and after the sale of Roberto Baggio to Juventus. His erratic reign reached its nadir with last season's collapse into relegation.

ARNIE OLIVER, who played for the United States at the first World Cup in 1930, dies aged 86 in New Bedford, Mass. Oliver's greatest achievement was scoring the winner in a 4-3 victory over Brazilian club Santos during a post-World Cup tour of Brazil (James Brown, 85, is now the only surviving member of that 1930 side).

ARTHUR ROWE, manager who created Tottenham's legendary push-and-run side of the late 1940s and early 1950s, dies aged 85. Rowe a constructive centre-half in pre-war days, returned to White Hart Lane as manager in 1949. His team won promotion to the first division in 1950 and won the league championship a year later. His players then included Bill Nicholson and Alf Ramsey and one of his last signings, before ill health forced his departure in 1955, was Danny Blanchflower.

RICARDO GONZALES, of Peruvian club Melgar, dies aged 25 after being stabbed by unidentified attackers as he returned to his home in Arequipa in the early hours of November 26 after a party with team-mates.

AFRICA NATIONS CUP

Guinea grab the last place

GUINEA became the 12th and final team to qualify for the finals of the Africa Nations Cup after a post-match shoot-out victory over Burundi.

It was a heartbreaking result for the tiny East African nation, whose team flew to neutral Libreville in Gabon for the match a few hours before an attempted *coup d'etat* that left the country wracked by violence.

The sides had to play off after finishing level on points, goal difference and goal average.

Under Nations Cup rules, a draw should have taken place to determine the winner, but the Confederation of African Football were persuaded by the two countries to stage a match instead.

The game ended in a goalless draw after extra time before Guinea, with European-based professionals Aboubacar Camara, Salam Sow and Mohamed Sylla in their team, snatched victory in the shoot-out.

Burundi, one of the emerging nations in African soccer, were seeking to reach the finals for the first time. Guinea last qualified in 1980.

Their reward is a place in Group C with Ghana, the 1992 runners-up, and fellow outsiders Senegal.

Tunisia, the hosts, could not have asked for an easier start. They are with outsiders Mali and Zaire in Group A and are overwhelming favourites to go through to the eight-team knock-out phase.

The top two teams in each group qualify for the quarter-finals, leaving four countries eliminated after the first week of the tournament, which runs from March 26 to April 10.

Defending champions Ivory Coast are in possibly the toughest group, with Sierra Leone and Zambia. The four groups are: A, Tunisia, Mali, Zaire; B, Egypt, Gabon, Nigeria; C, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Zambia; D, Ghana Guinea, Senegal.

MARK GLEESON

Cosmos face the drop

JOMO COSMOS, are struggling to save their place in the NSL Castle League.

Concentrating on the African Cup-winners Cup competition may cost them dearly through relegation to the insignificant OK Second Division. That could be a disaster financially and to the pride of this leading club.

And Cosmos failed to reach the final of the Cup-winners Cup, losing to Africa Sport of Ivory Coast in the semi-final.

The championship is now a two-horst race between Moroka Swallows, who have never finished in the first three, and 1988 and 1990 champions Mamelodi Sundowns.

Sowetan club Swallows, coached by former Ipswich forward Mich D'Avray in his first full season, have led virtually all season.

But Englishman Jeff Butler, who coached Kaizer Chiefs to the title in 1989, 1991 and 1992, has hauled Sundowns into a two-point lead with three games to go.

Daniel Mudau of Sundowns (above right) leads the scoring charts with 20, followed by Hellenic's Grant Young on 15.

Kaizer Chiefs, out of contention for the League, have given themselves a life-line to the Cup-winners Cup for 1994 by reaching the final of the Bob Save Superbowl, the FA Cup competition. Over 3,000 clubs started the competition last April.

The final 32 in the event will consist of the 20 NSL clubs, four from the OK Second Division and eight from the regional Third Divisions and amateur clubs.

Chiefs beat arch rivals Orlando Pirates in front of a 70,000 crowd at the FNB Soccer City Stadium, thanks to a 68th-minute shot by Doctor Khumalo.

Chatsworth Rangers beat Witbank Aces 2-0 at Kings Park, Durban, with two goals by ex-Chiefs player Benjamin Reed. *BARRY BAKER*

NSL CASTLE LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

MIDWEEK

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Wymers 88).

MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Sekano 31)
JOMO COSMOS 2 (Mkhalele 9, Siyangaphi 83).

UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Augustin 67)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Seoke 57).

WELKOM EAGLES 0
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Roberts 38, Skosana 39).

WEEKEND

HELLENIC 2 (C Das Neves 26, Young 57)
CHATSWORTH RANGERS 4 (Reed 18, Cano 30, Bwalya 33, Chembo 89).

KAIZER CHIEFS 2 (Lebese 33, Nogueira 63)
ORLANDO PIRATES 3 (Seshweni 11, Lane 41, Shimbala 87).

WELKOM EAGLES 0
JOMO COSMOS 3 (Mwakapuki 9, Molebatsi 44, Ndiaye 89).

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Modukanele 34)
AMAZULU 1 (Dearnaley 18).

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 1 (Nakhumwa 8)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Zwane 32, Magolego 65).

MOROKA SWALLOWS 2 (Mphafudi 25, Ramasike 39)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 0.

QWA QWA STARS 1 (Lumbombo)
UMTATA BUCKS 0.

VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Jowa 5)
SANTOS 1 (Borman 8).

WITBANK ACES 1 (Shili 27)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Hannon 75).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

MIDWEEK

AMAZULU 2 (Nzimande 44, Dearnaley 84)
PRETORIA CITY 1 (Steenkamp 54).

WEEKEND

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 5 (Simpson 1, 52, Moosa 16, Molatedi 50 pen, Ncube 76)
WELKOM EAGLES 1 (Pondo 23).

MOROKA SWALLOWS 0
WITBANK ACES 1 (Peer 56).

AMAZULU 2 (Dearnaley 61, 70 pen)
QWA QWA STARS 1 (Lumbombo 39).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17

WEEKEND

WITS UNIVERSITY 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 0.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

MIDWEEK

DYNAMOS 3 (Morodi 58, Shaw 81, Baloyi 88)
WELKOM EAGLES 0.

HELLENIC 0
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Ramasike 18).

JOMO COSMOS 0
UMTATA BUCKS 1 (Wilfred Mugeyi 46).

KAZIER CHIEFS 0
AMAZULU 0.

WEEKEND

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 2 (Malesela 55, Bwalya 60)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Gordon 57).

SANTOS 0
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 1 (Moodau 6).

AMAZULU 0
D'ALBERTON CALLIES 2 (Petersen 70, Moosa 84).

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 1 (Modise 10).

DYNAMOS 1 (Chilombo 40)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Seakamela 27).

ORLANDO PIRATES 0
MOROKA SWALLOWS 1 (Makgaledisa 53).

JOMO COSMOS 1 (Siyangaphi 16)
HELLENIC 2 (Mhlanga 53, 70).

PRETORIA CITY 2 (Lawrende 4, Field 44)
QWA QWA STARS 2 (Ngaduane 35 pen, Tsotetsi 56).

UMTATA BUCKS 3 (Wilfred Mugeyi 35, 48, Luzipo 82)
WITBANK ACES 1 (Shili 77)

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

MIDWEEK

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 1 (Muir 4)
CAPE TOWN SPURS 1 (Rosslee 53).

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Chirwali 35, Gondwe 89)
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 1 (Seakamela 53).

KAIZER CHIEFS 0
WITS UNIVERSITY 0.

SANTOS 0
DYNAMOS 0.

WEEKEND

HELLENIC 3 (Philander 51, Tucker 55, Young 74)
BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Moleko 20, April 70).

AMAZULU 1 (Dearnaley 88)
WITS UNIVERSITY 0.

PRETORIA CITY 0
DYNAMOS 0.

WELKOM EAGLES 0
KAIZER CHIEFS 3 (Mohodi 18, Zviripayi 28, Molatedi 85).

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

MIDWEEK

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (April, Mzaboe)
SANTOS 1 (Duncan Crowie).

MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Mudau 47, Kambule 49)
UMTATA BUCKS 2 (Augustine 57, 69).

ORLANDO PIRATES 2 (Troughton pen, Tucker og)
HELLENIC 0.

WEEKEND

CAPE TOWN SPURS 0
QWA QWA STARS 1 (Lubombo 50).

CHATSWORTH RANGERS 0
SANTOS 0.

ORLANDO PIRATES 1 (Mncwango 58)
MAMELODI SUNDOWNS 2 (Motaung 77, B Masinga 87).

AMAZULU 1 (Rasmussen 89)
MOROKA SWALLOWS 0.

BLOEMFONTEIN CELTIC 2 (Modise 56, 86)
KAIZER CHIEFS 0.

DYNAMOS 1 (Sakala 37)
WITBANK ACES 3 (Peer 63, 77, Shili 89).

JOMO COSMOS 3 (Molebatski 7, Thomas 33, Siyangaphi 52).

D'ALBERTON CALLIES 2 (Petersen 13, 89).

PRETORIA CITY 1 (Lawrence 54 pen)
HELLENIC 1 (Philander 24).

UMTATA BUCKS 2 (William Mugeyi 68, Sokhela 78)
WITS UNIVERSITY 1 (Masagela 46).

WELKOM EAGLES 0
VAAL PROFESSIONALS 7 (Seakamela, 27, 33, 40, 89, Masango 35, 67, Masilo 83).

LEADING SCORERS

1 ..... Daniel **MUDAU** (Mamelodi Sundowns) 20
2 ..... Robinson **SEAKAMELA** (Vaal Professionals) 17
3 ..... Grant **YOUNG** (Hellenic) 15
4 ..... Nicky **SHAW** (Dynamos) 14

NSL CASTLE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mamelodi Sundowns	35	21	7	7	61	31	49
Moroka Swallows	35	19	9	7	38	23	47
Amazulu	36	16	13	7	40	32	45
Umtata Bucks	34	13	12	9	45	36	38
Kaizer Chiefs	33	14	10	9	39	30	38
Chatsworth Rans	35	9	19	7	42	34	37
Pretoria City	35	11	15	9	37	37	37
Hellenic	35	12	12	11	52	48	36
Bloemfontein Celtic	34	13	10	11	35	48	36
Orlando Pirates	34	12	11	9	43	36	35
Cape Town Spurs	34	11	11	12	33	33	33
Witbank Aces	34	12	9	13	45	47	33
Vaal Professionals	34	10	12	12	45	40	32
D'Alberton Callies	34	12	8	14	39	44	32
Wits University	36	12	8	16	31	41	32
Dynamos	34	8	15	11	39	36	31
Qwa Qwa Stars	34	8	15	11	35	35	31
Jomo Cosmos	33	10	10	13	34	38	30
Santos	32	6	14	12	23	32	26
Welkom Eagles	37	1	6	30	22	94	9

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ZAMBIA
IAN PORTERFIELD has had his contract as national team coach extended for another year, despite Zambia's failure to qualify for the World Cup finals.

Porterfield also dropped co-coach Freddie Mwila, who was in charge for the initial reconstruction of the team after 18 players were killed in an air crash in April.

BOTSWANA
FORMER Zambian coach Samuel Ndlovu, who was in charge of their team at the 1992 African Nations Cup, has signed to coach last year's club champions, LSC Gunners.

NORTH AFRICA

MOROCCO
MUSTAPHA HADJI, who plays for Nancy in France, has chosen Morocco over France for his international career.

He was picked for France's Under-21 team against Israel in a European Championship match, but elected to join the Moroccans as they qualified for the World Cup finals at Zambia's expense.

KAC Marrakesh are the early leaders in the championship, on goal difference over Olympic Casablanca.

TUNISIA
THE Tunisians won a four-national tournament in preparation for the African Nations Cup.

They beat Egypt 2-0 in the final, with both goals coming from French-based Faouzi Rouissi.

Malta were third after a 2-1 win over Gabon. In the semi-finals, Tunisia beat Gabon 4-0 and Egypt beat Malta 3-0.

Esperance are the leaders after six rounds of the championship with 10 points, one ahead of CA Bizerte. They also won the Arab Champions Cup with a 3-0 victory over Al Mouharak of Bahrain.

CAMEROON
RACING BAFOUSSAM won the championship with 44 points from 30 matches. A home draw with Prevoyance Yaounde in their final game was enough to see off Unisport de Bafang.

EAST AFRICA

KENYA
GOR MAHIA from Nairobi are the Kenyan champions for the third time in four years, after a chaotic climax.

They took the title after the season had finished when the National Sports Council awarded them a "technical victory" in a match that had been abandoned in May, against their nearest rivals, AFC Leopards.

Gor finished with 49 points from their 32 games and lost only six, although three had to be abandoned.

Leopards, two points behind, now have to settle for a place in the 1994 CAF Cup rather than the African Champions Cup.

Both games between Gor and Leopards could not be completed because of crowd trouble, but the Leopards were given the points for the other match.

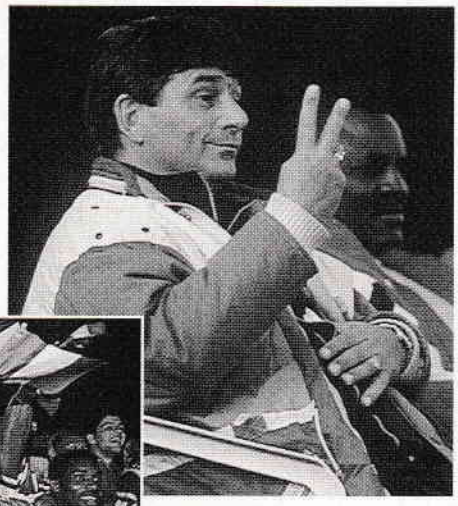
The early leaders, Kenya Breweries, dropped four points in their last three matches, but had some measure of revenge in the Moi Golden Cup, beating Gor 1-0 to retain the trophy.

UGANDA
THE 1993 East and Central Africa Senior Cup has been cancelled after the Ugandan government clashed with the country's football authority and refused to finance the tournament.

Zambia, the defending champions, were due to stage the event, but withdrew for financial reasons. Now that Uganda have pulled out the tournament will not go ahead.

WEST AFRICA

Half-time row puts Westerhof in danger



NIGERIA
COACH Clemens Westerhof faces the sack for taking a stand against interfering officials.

Dutch-born Westerhof (above right) refused to allow the Nigerian Sports Commission head, Chief Alex Akiyele, into the dressing room at half-time during Nigeria's final World Cup qualifier in Algiers.

Akiyele wanted to give instructions to the team, who were leading 1-0 at that stage and on course for their first-ever place in the World Cup finals.

But Westerhof refused to let him in calling him "a comedian".

As a result, Westerhof is to face an inquiry by the sports commission, who also accuse him of offering unauthorised bonuses to players for qualifying for the finals.

Iwuanyanwu Nationale won the championship by one point from Bendel Insurance. On the final weekend, Bendel set up their hopes with a 5-0 thrashing of Rangers International, but Iwuanyanwu managed a 2-0 away win over El Kanemi Warriors.

IVORY COAST
POLISH-BORN Henri Kasperczak has been appointed national coach in place of Yeo Martial, the man at the helm when the Ivorians won the Nations Cup in 1992.

The 47-year-old Kasperczak, who played in France with Metz, coached St Etienne, Strasbourg, Racing Club and Montpellier, who played in the European Cup-winners Cup in 1991 under him.

ASEC Abidjan have a three point lead over Africa Sport going into the final stages of the Ivorian Super Division championship.

Sporting Gagnoa have been relegated for falsifying a player's identity, and the club's secretary-general, Makan Keita, has been suspended.

Stade Abidjan have signed Frenchman Serge Deveze as their new coach in place of Allah Toussaint.

Deveze, 37, previously was national coach in Guinea, but was fired after the team lost to Cameroon in a World Cup qualifier last May.

SENEGAL
JULES BOCANDE, the charismatic former captain of the Lions, will now coach the national team at the African Nations Cup finals.

Bocande, who had been playing in the Belgian Second Division, was named as successor to one of Senegal's other favourite footballing sons, Boubacar Sarr.

He resigned after Senegal's World Cup qualifier against Morocco in July, when a 3-1 home defeat effectively eliminated them from the running for US '94.

Bocande has played in the French First Division with Nice, Lens, Metz and Paris St Germain.

Senegal will not enter any clubs in the 1994 African club competitions after poor results in the 1993 editions. None of their teams managed to get past the first round of either the African Champions Cup, Cup-winners Cup or CAF Cup.

On top of that, Sports Minister Ousmane Paye has suspended the Federation's executive committee and a temporary committee has been installed to handle footballing affairs.

AS Douanes beat relegated Dial Diop 1-0 in their penultimate game of the season, to win the championship. Diaraf Dakar made sure of second place by beating Casaport 3-0 away.

US Ouakam go down and ASFA and Espoires de Bignona are promoted.

GHANA
AGGREY FINN is the new coach of Ghana. He replaces Jorgen Larsen, who lasted only one match in charge.

Finn was in Ghana's squads at the 1963 and 1965 African Nations Cup finals and coached Asante Kotoko to an African Champions Cup title in 1970.

But he has been out of the game for a considerable time and the appointment has drawn flak from the media and supporters.

He is the fourth coach for the Black Stars in 1993, following Otto Pfister, Petre Gaurilla and Larsen.

Goldfields needed penalty kicks to take the Ghanaian Cup with a 4-3 shoot-out win over Cape Coast in the final, then sold striker Agustin Ahimful to Borussia Dortmund.

MALI
MILITARY club Union Sportive des Forces Armees, have been suspended for four years after their fans brought an unruly end to the Cup Final against Djoliba in Bamako.

Djoliba were leading 4-0 with six minutes to go when USFA supporters invaded the pitch after one of their players was sent off. The referee was forced to halt the match.

BENIN
MOGAS 90, seeking to become the first Beninois team to win the West African Football Union Cup, drew 1-1 at home in the first leg of the final against Nigeria's Bendel Insurance.

Nigeria's chief

SPOTLIGHT ON
RASHIDI YEKINI

BY OMOSEYE BOLAJI

THE towering frame of striker Rashidi Yekini often constitutes a nightmare for defenders. He did more than any player to propel Nigeria to US '94.

Yekini, a modest, religious young man, says: "Nothing gives me more pleasure than scoring fro my country. I've had tiffs with my European club [Victoria Setubal of Portugal] because of my desire to play for Nigeria."

Rashidi is not sure of the number of goals he has scored for his country, where records are difficult to maintain, but the figure is around 30.

In 1984, Yekini was a young, eager, promising striker. Even at that stage it was clear he was destined for stardom, and coach Festus Adegbouye Onigbinde took him to the Nations Cup in Ivory Coast as the target man.

That was not a good tournament for Yekini. A penalty against Egypt in the semi-final was his main contribution.

The critics were quick to write Yekini off, but there were some discerning voices — mainly that of former Nigerian wing wizard Segun Odegbami. He continued to maintain that Yekini would blossom into Nigeria's most lethal striker ever, and he has been proved right.

Yekini was involved in Nigeria's fruitless bid to qualify for Mexico '86, and scored two goals against Kenya, one of them an absolute cracker, but Tunisia terminated Nigeria's bid.

He was again target man for Nigeria in the 1988 Nations Cup finals where he scored against Kenya and set up the second for Edobor.

In the next match, against Cameroon, Yekini helped Sam Okwardji to a goal. In the semi-final, against Algeria, Yekini's header hit a post and led to Nigeria's goal before they won on penalties. But against Cameroon, in the final, Yekini was anonymous.

In the 1990 World Cup campaign, he was never used by Nigeria. Samson Siasia and Etim Esin were expected to score the goals. They tried their best, but they failed. In the Nations Cup that followed, however, Yekini began to come into his own as a scorer.

He headed the only goal against Egypt, outwitted the Ivorian defence to put Nigeria into the semi-final, then finished off with a superb volley.

Yekini was rarely used during the 1992 African Nations Cup qualifying matches, but in the last against Burkina Faso, he scored four goals.

So to the finals, where he scored two goals against Kenya and one against Zaire. The semi-final against Ghana was always going to be tough. Yekini hit the bar but the ball bounced away and Nigeria lost 2-1.

Another goal in the third-place match, the winner against Cameroon, made Yekini the Golden Boot winner.

As soon as the race for US '94 started, Yekini promised to score the goals that Nigeria needed.

He began well, with two against South Africa in a 4-0 win. He continued in Congo, when he scored again — the only one of the match.

In Johannesburg the referee disallowed his calmly-taken goal, and he was not needed for the match against Congo, but was around for the final round against Algeria and Ivory Coast.

Apart from his brilliant early goal against the Ivorians he played a great all-round game, but Nigeria lost 2-1.

Then came the match with Algeria in Lagos, when Yekini was joint hero with Eintracht Frankfurt's Austin Okocha.

The Algerians hardly knew what hit them, and Yekini scored twice in his country's 4-1 win.

In September, Nigeria met Ivory Coast in Lagos, and won 4-1. Yekini had to wait for the second half before he could get on the scoresheet, then hit a penalty and added a second goal from an Emmanuel Amunike pass.

Yekini had now scored eight goals for his country in the World Cup race. The defenders he will face in the US will know they have been in a game!

Yekini's record warns World Cup foes

INDIAN OCEAN

MADAGASCAR
BTM FC beat FC BFV 1-0 to take the title. The League is played on a regional basis with play-offs at the end of the season.

SEYCHELLES
A GOAL from Herisetra Rafanodinia gave Madagascar a 1-0 win over Reunion in the Indian Ocean Games final. Ironically Rafanodinia plays his club soccer on the French-controlled island, for JS St-Pierre.

Pre-tournament favourites Mauritius took third place with a 6-2 win over Seychelles.

Deaths mar Champions Cup

BOTH Asante Kotoko and Zamalek go in search of a record-equalling third African Champions Cup against the background of more off-field violence surrounding the event.

Ghanaians Asante, winners in 1970 and 1983, host the first leg of the final in Kumasi against the Egyptians, winners in 1984 and 1986.

The competition has been marred by violence following Kotoko's semi-final win over ASEC Abidjan of Ivory Coast, when 26 people died.

The outbreak was the latest in a series of incidents between supporters of the two neighbouring countries. Ghanaian fans who travelled to Abidjan were allegedly assaulted by ASEC supporters during and after the match and one man apparently was killed, although authorities could not given any confirmation.

In retaliation, some 2,000 ASEC supporters who travelled the short distance over the frontier to Kumasi for the return game were stoned and harassed on their journey.

The day after the final Ivorians turned on Ghanaian immigrants in Abidjan, killed 26 and leaving more than 400 injured.

ASEC fans broke down doors and looted homes, set fires and smashed vehicles. Ghanaian ministers rushed to Abidjan in an attempt to halt the violence and arrange for the evacuation of their citizens.

The deaths led Zamalek to request a change of venue for their first leg, from Kumasi to Accra.

The Egyptians also were under threat in their semi-final victory, when Stationery Stores of Nigeria had two penalty claims turned aside in the second leg in Lagos. Stores fans rioted, blaming the Guinean referee.

ROAD TO THE FINAL
ASANTE KOTOKO
Sahel SC (Niger) 2-0 on agg, Kawkab Marrakesh (Mor) 3-1, Nkana FC (Zam) 3-1, ASEC Abidjan (IC) on away goals after 3-3 draw.
ZAMALEK
Malindi (Tan) 5-0 on agg, Kaizer Chiefs (SA) on away goals after 2-2 draw, Mouloudia d'Oran (Alg) 5-1, Stationery Stores (Nig) 3-2.

PENPALS

ENGLISH Non-League fan, 40-ish, seeks Spanish pen-pals from the Barcelona area to exchange souvenirs and to further language study. Write in English initially please.
— Dave Fletcher, 23 Harebell Way, Harold Hill, Romford, Essex, RM3 8AS, England.

FOOTBALL fan, 20, looking penpals in Europe, USA and Africa, any age. All answered.
— Aravena Muleule, PO Box 1646, Blantyre, Malawi.

CELTIC and England fan, 16, male. wants penpals in England and Scotland, aged 16-100.
— Julius K. Owusu, Box 193, Sunyani, Ghana.

STUDENT, male 21, seeks soccer-loving penfriends in USA, Canada, England, Germany, Belgium, Italy.
— Paul Kokou Kponso, SP 77871, Nyekonakpue, Lome, Togo.

RYAN GIGGS fan, 18, seeks penfriends.
— Abel Khumalo, Shingai Store, Po Bag 181, Gweru, Zimbabwe.

CANADIAN supporter of Toronto Blizzard seeks to correspond with soccer fans in any country.
— Paul S. Hendren, 5021 Sheppard Avenue East, Unit 10, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada.

FOOTBALL fan seeks penfriends, m/f.
— Williams Opuku Rockefeller (18), PO Box 615, Sunyani, Ghana.

FANS of Man United, IFK Gothenburg and Valur Reykjavik sought among fellow post workers, m/f
— Banuta Sandel, Strada Traian 248, Galati 6200, Romania.

EXCHANGES

BADGES, postcards, programmes etc. for exchange.
— Jerzy Bardin, PO Box 223, 90-980 Lodz 7, Poland.

PHOTOS, Panini cards etc, for exchange.
— Marnix Coene, Potakker 9, 8900 Ieper, Belgium.

RUSSIAN and other European soccer souvenirs to exchange.
— Anthony Nurkas, Poste Restante, Main PO, 101000 Moscow, Russia.

WORLD CUP, European and international match tickets wanted to swap with collectors worldwide.
— Luyckfasseel Eskenazi, 89 Av 'd Auderghem, 1040 Brussels, Belgium.

SCOTTISH fan will exchange Scottish and English souvenirs with fans of Real Madrid, Torino and PSG.
— Duncan McPhie, 143 Arnesbury Circus, Cinderhill, Nottingham, England.

FOR SALE

SCARVES, metal badges, pennants, tickets for sale.
— Florin Oprea, Colonia Raf 1-7A, Ploiesti Sud, Romania.

AUTOGRAPHED footballs of Euro 92, PSV 91-92, Feyenoord 92-93.
— Gary Milne, 2 Ardeer Place, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

TICKETS, pennants, badges etc from Eastern European countries.
— Gabi Oprea, Str. Rafinorilor 7A, Ploiesti 2000, Romania.

WANTED

ANY videos of World Cup matches in which Pele played.
— Jeff Wang, 5103 Haydenbend Circle, Grapevine, Texas 76051, USA.

Strength through misery

World Cup defeat fortifies the game

JAPAN'S late exit from the World Cup produced an unprecedented outpouring of grief across the nation. But rather than destroying a soccer boom, the experience seems to have fortified the game.

The average TV ratings tell part of the story. Late at night, 25.4 per cent watched the third World Cup match in Qatar, Japan's win over North Korea.

Then 38 per cent saw the win over South Korea, and a 48.1 per cent (roughly 50 million people) saw the final game with Iraq. That compared with 32.4 per cent who watched the J.League opener at prime time in May.

The real figure for the final game was then higher if you include those who watched on the satellite channel.

The consecutive victories over the Koreas did at least confirm that Japan have the best side in East Asia.

The win over South Korea was especially important, not only as the first in Olympic or World Cup competition but also because Japan thoroughly controlled the game. As a confidence-booster, it was almost as important as qualifying for US '94.

Korea's national broadcasting network described the result as the country's heaviest blow since annexation by Japan in 1910. Chung Mong Joon, head of the South Korean FA, has now taken the initiative by proposing a Cup competition for clubs to promote football in both countries.

Then, as hopes hit unbelievable highs, came the injury-time equaliser by Iraq that knocked Japan from top of the table to third and out of the competition. The game had only 17 seconds left to play.

TV announcers and studio guests choked completely. Manager Hans Ooft walked from player to player, with a kindly word for each, then half-carried weeping captain Tetsuji Hashiratani off the field.

The team that Ooft built had run their course. Japan had lost again. But this time defeat tasted different. Inquests proved unnecessary. The nation felt that Japan had been good enough. What we saw after the grief was an outpouring of gratitude to the team. And it was all too emotional to forget.

Ooft has now quit (some suggest he was forced out) as national manager.

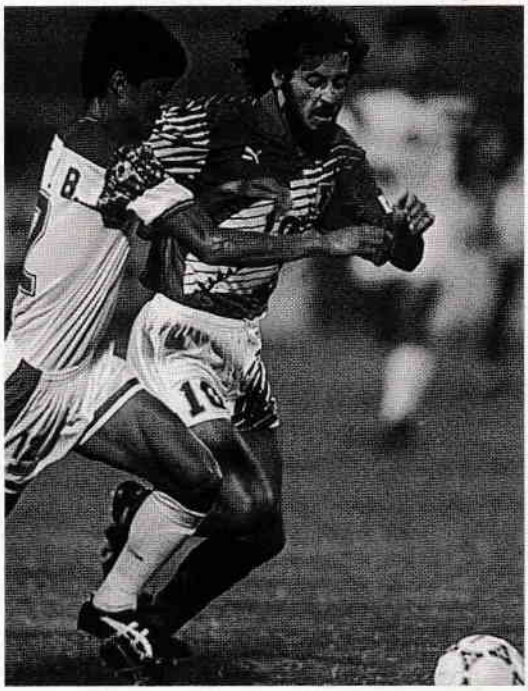
"I always need an aim," he said. "And the aim has gone, so the best thing for us is to split."

He also turned down a $1.5 million offer to manage Saudi Arabia in the United States this year. But Ooft may stay in Japan to run a club team.

Ruy Ramos (left, number 10), the pillar of Japan's midfield, has retired from international football at 36. He went to Japan from Brazil in 1977, and his flair and ability to change the pace of a game were vital for giving breadth to the attack.

Kazuyoshi Miura, Verdy's Brazilian-trained star, may now leave the J.League sooner than expected.

With the World Cup dream over he is seeking a team in Italy, and apparently is willing to take a pay cut to do so.



Lineker may have a new old manager

GARY LINEKER'S stumbling career in Japanese football took another turn for the worse with the news that he is out for the rest of the season with his old toe injury.

Lineker's final record for the season thus reads five goals (four in the League Cup) in 12 appearances.

But the Lineker connection is far from being severed. With manager Ryuzo Hiraki about to retire for health reasons, Grampus Eight seem set to appoint Lineker's old Leicester boss, Gordon Milne, who has left Turkey after seven years.

If he agrees, Milne will find the club looking firmer than before but tactically innocent even by J.League standards.

The team have at least got some results since the arrival of 22-year-old winger Elivelton from Sao Paulo.

Victory over Kashima Antlers in the first League game after the break exorcised memories of the 5-0 crushing in May. A week later, Grampus scored five at bottom club Urawa (a game that Rummenigge missed through injury).

Urawa, too, have not given up the chase. They tightened up in the second half against Grampus by moving centre-forward Uwe Rahn into central midfield. In the next match, Rahn played sweeper, and Urawa beat JEF United 3-2.

Grampus also have news from Holland, where 20-year-old striker Takafumi Ogura is making waves at Excelsior in the Second Division. After a year on loan with Feyenoord, Gremio in Brazil and now Excelsior, Ogura should be a big asset for the club from the start of next season.

At the other end of the table, Verdy Kawasaki's national contingent — Miura, Ramos, Takeda, Kitazawa, Hashiratani and Tsunami — seem determined to put Qatar behind them by crushing every team in sight. They put four past both Gamba Osaka and JEF United, and ended a six-year drought against Yokohama Marinos with a late goal by Takeda.

The J.League will have two new teams next year: Jubilo Iwata and Bellmare Hiratsuka. As expected, Kashiwa Reysol's fifth-place finish in the Japan Football League put them out of the running for another year.

Yanmar Diesel have been granted associate status, which means that like Kashiwa they can play in next year's J.League Yamazaki Nabisco Cup, but not in the League.

J.LEAGUE YAMAZAKI NABISCO CUP

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

WEEKEND

SEMI-FINALS

GAMBA OSAKA 2 (Nagashima 27, 86)
SHIMIZU S PULSE 4 (Tajima 19, Oenoki 35, 75, Edu 70). **Att:** 20,497.

VERDY KAWASAKI 2 (Fujioyoshi 41, 106)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Sorimachi 59).
Att: 50,663.

J.LEAGUE — *2nd stage*

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 3 (Miura 48, Diaz 73 pen, Everton 97)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 2 (Futoshi Ikeda 23, Hirose 85). **Att:** 14,207.

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 0
SHIMIZU S PULSE 0. **Att:** 10,199
Shimizu won 5-4 on pens

GAMBA OSAKA 0
VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Takeda 44, 76, 79, Kitazawa 67). **Att:** 41,054.

NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 2 (Sawairi 7, Jorginho 61)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 1 (Manaka 77). **Att:** 11,584.

JEF UNITED 1 (Pavel Rehak 33)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Maeda 80, Edu 117). **Att:** 45,748.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

VERDY KAWASAKI 1 (Takeda 91)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 0.
Att: 55,243.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 1 (Hasegawa 25)
JEF UNITED 1 (Nakanishi 50).
Att: 17,450
JEF won 4-3 on pens

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 1 (Hirose 33)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 2 (Noh 7, Cerny 23). **Att:** 8,158.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Maezono 83)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0.
Att: 13,205.

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (o.g. 53, Alcindo 73, Hasegawa 89)
GAMBA OSAKA 4 (Nagashima 10, Isogai 59, Matsunami 89, Minobe 102).
Att: 13,417.

WEEKEND

KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Alcindo 21, 69, Zico 77)
YOKOHAMA MARINOS 2 (Diaz 1, 19).
Att: 14,235.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 3 (Mukojima 31, 69, Miura 34)
YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 1 (Amarilla 44).
Att: 16,080.

GAMBA OSAKA 3 (Nagashima 27, Minobe 33, Isogai 58)
SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 6 (Takagi 25, 60, Cernby 43, Noh 67, Jonson 30, Moriyama 80). **Att:** 19,290.

URAWA RED DIAMONDS 0
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 5 (Jorginho 3, 62, Elivelton 28, Garcia 40 pen, 44). **Att:** 9,347.

JEF UNITED 1 (Littbarski 23)
VERDY KAWASAKI 4 (Bismarck 50, 59, Pereira 75, Nakamura 86). **Att:**19,524.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

MIDWEEK

SANFRECCE HIROSHIMA 1 (Katanosaka 61)
VERDY KAWASAKI 3 (Miura 24, 29, Takeda 89). **Att:** 13,906.

SHIMIZU S PULSE 2 (Edu 29, Hasegawa 34)
NAGOYA GRAMPUS EIGHT 0.
Att: 16,889.

YOKOHAMA MARINOS 4 (Everton 7 Diaz 56, 83, Mizunuma 70)
GAMBA OSAKA 0. **Att:** 13,598.

JEF UNITED 2 (Nakanishi 25, Ordenewi pen 75)
URAWA RED DIAMONDS 3 (Fukud 69, Rahn pen 86, Mizuuchi 106). **Att:** 53,570.

YOKOHAMA FLUGELS 2 (Amarilla 5 Edu pen 87)
KASHIMA ANTLERS 3 (Zico 39, Alcindo pen 75, Manaka 99). **Att:** 14,186.

J.LEAGUE — *2nd stage*

	P	W	L	F	A
Verdy Kawasaki	13	11	2	31	8
Shimizu S Pulse	13	11	2	21	6
Kashima Antlers	13	7	6	23	21
Yokohama Flugels	13	7	6	16	19
Sanfreece Hiroshima	13	6	7	25	21
Yokohama Marinos	13	6	7	21	20
JEF United	13	5	8	22	27
Gamba Osaka	13	5	8	17	25
Nagoya Grampus Eight	13	4	9	17	21
Urawa Red Diamonds	13	3	10	10	35

LEADING SCORERS — *1st & 2nd stage*

1 ..... Diaz (Marinos) 24
2 ..... Alcindo (Antlers) 19
3 ..... Takeda (Verdy) 16
4 ..... Rehak (JEF Utd) 15
5 ..... Miura (Verdy) 14
Edu (Shimizu) 14
7 ..... Nagashima (Gamba) 12
8 ..... Takagi (Sanfrecce) 11
9 ..... Maeda (Flugels) 10
Kurosaki (Antlers) 10
Y. Hasegawa (Antlers) 10
Litbarski (JEF Utd) 10
13 .... K. Hasegawa (Shimizu) 9
Zico (Antlers) 9
Bisconti (Marinos) 9
Mukojima (Shimizu) 9
17 .... Cerny (Sanfrecce) 8

MIKE PLASTOW AND MICHI ISHIJIM

NEW ZEALAND

NCR register a double

NAPIER CITY ROVERS completed the double in New Zealand when defeating Waitakere City 4-3, after extra time, in the Winfield Superclub Championship Grand Final.

Three weeks earlier, Napier had captured the Chatham Cup.

Waitakere, who won the 1992 national league title — the last to be decided — looked likely to become the inaugural winners of the biggest prize available under the restructured domestic format. They led for a total of 75 minutes, but astute substitutions by Napier coach Mick Waitt and the influence of diminutive midfielder Paul Halford eventually thrwarted them.

An early own goal by Phil Lowery rocked Rovers, but they rallied and Darren Fletcher equalised just before the interval. Carl Jorgenson restored Waitakere's advantage early in the second half, and only three minutes of the 90 were left when Perry Cotton made the score 2-2.

That effectively finished Waitakere, and substitute Glen Whittington scored twice before Rodger Gray gained a late consolation.

A Championship medal capped a remarkable season for former Derby County professional Halford, who won both of the major individual awards — Player of the Year (presented by the New Zealand Soccer Media Association) and Players' Player of the Year.

Waitt took the Coach of the Year trophy and Napier commercial manager Colin Stone shared the Personality of the Year prize with fellow South Londoner Vic Deverill, now secretary of the NZSMA.

Wanganui Athletic, who just missed a place in the Superclub Championship final play-offs, gained some solace through the Golden Boot (to leading scorer Clive Youlton) and Young Player of the Year award (Matthew Rennie).

AUSTRIALIA

Darwin Cubs invade the Lion City

AUSTRIALIA's Northern Territory will field a composite team, Darwin Cubs, in the Singaporean Premier League from next season.

Western Australia also recently decided to field a team in Singapore's domestic competitions.

For both, the Lion City is far more viable financially than membership of the Australian league.

South Korea warned up for their successful World Cup qualifying campaign with a couple of games against Australia, both at Seoul's Olympic Stadium.

In the first game, Damian Mori's 86th-minute goal cancelled out Suh Jung-won's opener. Two days later, Choi Mun-shik scored the only goal after half an hour.

FIJI

No stopping Nadroga

NADROGA, the Coral Coast Stallions, underlined their supremacy during the 1993 Fijian domestic season by winning the two top honours.

They dominated the league and finished ten points ahead of Ba, who were widely tipped to gain revenge when hosting the Inter-Districts Championship.

The two clashed in the semi-finals and, at the end of a torrid encounter, the League champions won on penalties.

A solitary goal from veteran Abraham Watkins then accounted for Nasinu in a comparatively mundane final.

PAUL MOON

SAUDI ARABIA

Foreign helpers earn a place

AL QADISIYAH used their experienced expatriate line-up to oust Qatar's Al Arabi and win the first berth in the 1993 Asian Cup-winners Cup final.

The aggregate 2-1 semi-final win over Qatar's Emir Cup holders puts the Saudis on course for another regional triumph to go with their recent World Cup success.

They now represent West Asia in the two-leg finals against an East Asian side, either from Japan or Hong Kong.

In the first semi-final, in Doha, Qatar led until seconds before full-time, when Ghanaian striker Koai equalised. On balance the Saudis deserved a win but squandered their chances.

The return in Dammam was a showcase for the talents of another Al Qadisiyah ex-pat, Brazilian Carlos. After pulling his team's strings from midfield, Carlos moved forward and his second-half free-kick was enough to seal the match.

Meantime Hong Kong's South China made history with their 5-1 quarter-final aggregate win over India's East Bengal, as the first local side to reach the final four.

The Caroliners now face Cup-winners Cup-holders Yokohama Marinos from Japan in the semi-finals.

Two goals from Au Wai-Lun helped set up the 4-1 second leg win, after South China had surprisingly snatched a 1-0 win in front of 80,000 fans in Calcutta.

SOUTH KOREA

Joint 2002 bid goes ahead

SOUTH KOREAN authorities have confirmed a joint bid with estranged neighbours North Korea to host the 2002 World Cup.

Such a sensational prospect could upset Japan's much-touted bid, which revolves around their J.League competition.

Despite praise from top FIFA officials for Japan's hosting of the recent Under-17 World Championships, the Korean bid received added momentum with Japan's failure to qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

Unlike Japan, South Korea are no strangers to the World Cup, having played in the 1954, '86 and '90 tournaments. They also are one of Asia's two teams at US '94.

Chung Moon Joon, president of the Korean FA, shot a bolt across the bow of the Japanese campaign when he declared: "Japan is an economic superpower, but if Japan tries to dominate the whole of Asia it will be very unhappy for all Asian people"

SINGAPORE

Singapore song

YOU have seen the team, now buy the music — that is what FA of Singapore officials hope the Lion City's legendary fans will do when a new album hits the stores.

Officials have earmarked revenues for the country's Soccer Development Fund and with the FAS expecting sales of 80,000 cassettes and 5,000 CDs, that could total more than 100,000 Singaporean dollars.

Dream Team Steam and Hear the Kallang Roar are deliberately downbeat and throaty to appeal to Singapore's hyper-critical, supercharged fans.

A local pop producer has tuned the raucous noises with the help of a part-time singer, and full-time pro, Fandi Ahmed, the former FC Groningen player who is now with Singapore.

CHARLIE CHARTERIS

BANGLADESH

Spectator shot at title decider

A SPECTATOR was shot and wounded and four others were injured by an explosion after a vital League match at the National Stadium in Dhaka.

There was prolonged violence after the game, in which Mohammedan won the Premier championship for the 15th time. They took 30 points from 18 games and lost only twice, both to second-placed Abahani, who finished a point behind.

So Russian coach Zolkhin Ivanovic could celebrate his first season in charge, and Oleg Jivotnikov was the League's top scorer, with 13 goals.

Oldrich Svab (right), who coached various clubs in Switzerland during a 22-year spell, is now national coach of Bangladesh. His players have spent two months in a residential training camp in preparation fo the sixth South Asian Federation Games. Pakistan have competed in all five previous tournaments and reached the final three times, but have never won the title.

Svab's initial selection of 28 players did not include Kanon and Mohosin, captains and goalkeepers of Mohammedan and Abahani respectively.

BANGLADESH PREMIER DIVISION — Final

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mohammedan	18	14	2	2	48	13	20'
Abahani	18	12	5	1	36	10	29
Brothers	18	8	7	3	28	17	23
Agrani Bank	18	2	13	3	12	17	17
Muktijoddha	18	2	11	5	11	15	15
Arambagh	18	4	6	8	13	30	14
PWD SE	18	2	10	6	10	16	14
Rahmatganj	18	4	5	9	12	25	13
Wari SC	18	3	7	8	12	21	13
Victoria	18	3	6	9	7	25	12

AZAM MAHMOOD

INDIA

TWO late goals gave Rising Star of Cuttack the Governor's All-India Gold Cup at the first attempt. Saroj and Sanjoy got the goals that beat Victoria Sporting Club of Bangladesh in the final of the tournament, staged in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Rising Star, based in Orissa, are a team of largely-unknown players, but they blended together well in this invitation tournament while more famous clubs such as Mohun Bagan and Mohemmedan Sporting were eliminated early on. This was another disappointment for Mohun Bagan, who had been beaten in the Bordeloi Cup Final a fortnight earlier.

They lost 1-0 to Port Authority of Bangkok in Guwahati, Assam. Skipper Attapol Puspakom scored, in the 32nd minute.

G. C. DAS

BAHRAIN

AL WEHDA set the early pace in the 1993-94 Bahrain Mumtaz League, taking six points from their first four games.

That gave them a goal-difference lead over Al Bahrain, with four clubs only a point behind.

Al Bisateen led Section A of the First Division, with seven points from five matches. Al Budaiya, Al Hala and Sitra all had seven points in section B.

There are ten clubs in the Mumtaz League, and six in the other two sections. All play each other twice, with the top three in sections A and B going into another group for a further series of matches. The top team then go up into the Mumtaz, replacing the bottom club there, and the second team playing the ninth Mumtaz club to determine the other promotion place.

AIDAN PAYNE

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1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland 0-6
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland 3-1
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland 2-2
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal 0-0
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia 0-0
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy 0-0
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta 3-0
19.12.92 Malta v Italy 1-2
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal 0-1
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta 3-0
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy 1-3
24.03.93 Italy v Malta 6-1
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal 1-1
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia 2-0
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland 0-2
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland 5-0
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy 1-0
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta 0-1
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland 0-3
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia 3-1
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta 4-0
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal 0-2
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland 1-1
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy 0-3
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland 1-0
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland 3-1
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia 3-0
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal 1-0
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland 0-2
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia 4-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ITALY	10	7	2	1	22	7	16
SWITZERLAND	10	6	3	1	23	6	15
Portugal	10	6	2	2	18	5	14
Scotland	10	4	3	3	14	13	11
Malta	10	1	1	8	3	23	3
Estonia	10	0	1	9	1	27	1

Italy & Switzerland qualify for finals

GROUP 2

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino 10-0
23.09.92 Norway v Holland 2-1
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey 1-0
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway 0-2
14.10.92 England v Norway 1-1
14.10.92 Holland v Poland 2-2
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino 4-1
18.11.92 England v Turkey 4-0
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland 1-3
17.02.93 England v San Marino 6-0
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey 3-1
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey 0-0
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino 6-0
31.03.93 Turkey v England 0-2
28.04.93 England v Holland 2-2
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey 3-1
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino 1-0
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland 0-3
29.05.93 Poland v England 1-1
02.06.93 Norway v England 2-0
09.06.93 Holland v Norway 0-0
08.09.93 England v Poland 3-0
22.09.93 Norway v Poland 1-0
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland 0-7
13.10.93 Holland v England 2-0
13.10.93 Poland v Norway 0-3
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland 2-1
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway 2-1
17.11.93 San Marino v England 1-7
17.11.93 Poland v Holland 1-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORWAY	10	7	2	1	25	5	16
HOLLAND	10	6	3	1	29	9	15
England	10	5	3	2	26	9	13
Poland	10	3	2	5	10	15	8
Turkey	10	3	1	6	11	19	7
San Marino	10	0	1	9	2	46	1

Norway & Holland qualify for finals

GROUP 3

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania 2-0
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania 1-0
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania 1-2
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark 0-0
09.09.92 Rep. of Ireland v Latvia 4-0
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania 3-0
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain 0-0
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark 0-0
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain 0-0
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia 1-1
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia 1-1
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark 0-1
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia 5-0
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland 1-2
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania 5-0
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain 1-0
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v N. Ireland 3-0
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia 2-0
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania 3-1
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark 1-1
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland 3-1
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania 0-0
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland 0-1
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania 4-0
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland 1-2
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain 0-2
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland 0-2
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland 0-1
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania 4-0
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark 0-1
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania 2-0
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia 2-0
22.09.93 Albania v Spain 1-5
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland 1-0
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain 1-3
17.11.93 N. Ireland v Rep. of Ireland 1-1
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	12	8	3	1	27	4	19
REP IRELAND	12	7	4	1	19	6	18
Denmark	12	7	4	1	15	2	18
N. Ireland	12	5	3	4	14	13	13
Lithuania	12	2	3	7	8	21	7
Latvia	12	0	5	7	4	21	5
Albania	12	1	2	9	6	26	4

Spain & Rep of Ireland qualify for finals

GROUP 4

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium 0-3
18.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus 0-2
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 1-2
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands 6-0
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands 4-0
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania 1-0
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales 0-1
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia 1-1
18.11.92 Belgium v Wales 2-0
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania 1-4
13.02.93 Cyprus v Belgium 0-3
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia 1-1
31.03.93 Wales v Belgium 2-0
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus 2-1
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands 3-1
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales 1-1
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands 3-0
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania 5-2
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales 0-3
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia 0-3
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia 2-2
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania 0-4
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium 2-1
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus 2-0
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus 3-0
17.11.93 Wales v Romania 1-2
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia 0-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ROMANIA	10	7	1	2	29	12	15
BELGIUM	10	7	1	2	16	5	15
Czechoslovakia	10	4	5	1	21	9	13
Wales	10	5	2	3	19	12	12
Cyprus	10	2	1	7	8	18	5
Faroe Islands	10	0	0	10	1	38	0

Romania & Belgium qualify for finals

GROUP 5

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland 1-2
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary 0-3
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece 0-1
14.10.92 Russia v Iceland 1-0
28.10.92 Russia v Luxembourg 2-0
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary 0-0
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg 2-0
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece 0-1
14.04.93 Luxembourg v Russia 0-4
28.04.93 Russia v Hungary 3-0
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland 1-1
23.05.93 Russia v Greece 1-1
02.06.93 Iceland v Russia 1-1
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary 2-0
08.09.93 Hungary v Russia 1-3
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg 1-0
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece 1-3
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg 1-0
17.11.93 Greece v Russia 1-0

★ *Yugoslavia excluded due to UN sanctions.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GREECE	8	6	2	0	10	2	14
RUSSIA	8	5	2	1	15	4	12
Iceland	8	3	2	3	7	6	8
Hungary	8	2	1	5	6	11	5
Luxembourg	8	0	1	7	2	17	1

Russia & Greece qualify for finals

GROUP 6

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France 2-0
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden 0-1
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria 2-0
14.10.92 France v Austria 2-0
28.10.92 Austria v Israel 5-2
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden 1-3
14.11.92 France v Finland 2-1
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria 0-2
17.02.93 Israel v France 0-4
27.03.93 Austria v France 0-1
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria 3-1
28.04.93 France v Sweden 2-1
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland 2-0
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel 2-2
13.05.93 Finland v Austria 3-1
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria 1-0
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel 5-0
16.06.93 Finland v Israel 0-0
22.08.93 Sweden v France 1-1
25.08.93 Austria v Finland 3-0
08.09.93 Finland v France 0-2
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden 1-1
13.10.93 France v Israel 2-3
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria 4-1
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland 3-2
27.10.93 Israel v Austria 1-1
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden 1-1
10.11.93 Israel v Finland 1-3
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria 1-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	10	6	3	1	19	8	15
BULGARIA	10	6	2	2	19	10	14
France	10	6	1	3	17	10	13
Austria	10	3	2	5	15	16	8
Finland	10	2	1	7	9	18	5
Israel	10	1	3	6	10	27	5

Sweden & Bulgaria qualify for finals

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi 3-1
25.10.92 Burundi v Ghana 1-0
20.12.92 Ghana v Algeria 2-0
17.01.93 Burundi v Algeria 0-0
31.01.93 Ghana v Burundi 1-0
26.02.93 Algeria v Ghana 2-1

★ *Uganda withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ALGERIA	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
Ghana	4	2	0	2	4	3	4
Burundi	4	1	1	2	2	4	3

GROUP B

18.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland 5-0
25.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire 1-0
10.01.93 Zaire v Cameroon 1-2
17.01.93 Swaziland v Cameroon 0-0
29.02.93 Cameroon v Zaire 0-0

★ *Liberia withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	2	2	0	7	1	6
Swaziland	3	1	1	1	1	5	3
Zaire	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

Not played: *Zaire v Swaziland*

GROUP C

11.10.92 Egypt v Angola 1-0
11.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo 1-0
25.10.92 Togo v Egypt 1-4
20.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt 2-1
10.01.93 Angola v Zimbabwe 1-1
17.01.93 Togo v Zimbabwe 1-2
18.01.93 Angola v Egypt 0-0
31.01.93 Egypt v Togo 3-0
31.01.93 Zimbabwe v Angola 2-1
28.02.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 2-1
Result declared void after protest
28.02.93 Togo v Angola 0-1
15.04.93 Egypt v Zimbabwe 0-0
Replay *(in Lyons)*

★ *Sierra Leone withdrew and were replaced by Togo.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZIMBABWE	6	4	2	0	8	4	10
Egypt	6	3	2	1	9	3	8
Angola	5	1	2	2	3	4	4
Togo	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

Not played: *Angola v Togo*

GROUP D

10.10.92 Nigeria v South Africa 4-0
25.10.92 South Africa v Congo 1-0
20.12.92 Congo v Nigeria 0-1
17.01.93 South Africa v Nigeria 0-0
31.01.93 Congo v South Africa 0-1
27.02.93 Nigeria v Congo 2-0

★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	3	1	0	7	0	7
South Africa	4	2	1	1	2	4	5
Congo	4	0	0	4	0	5	0

GROUP E

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast 0-0
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger 0-1
17.01.93 Botswana v Ivory Coast 0-0
31.01.93 Ivory Coast v Niger 1-0
28.02.93 Niger v Botswana 2-1

★ *Sudan withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IVORY COAST	4	2	2	0	7	0	6
Niger	4	2	1	1	3	2	5
Botswana	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

GROUP F

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 5-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 5-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia 0-0
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco 0-1
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco 1-1
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin 3-1
17.01.93 Ethiopia v Morocco 0-1
17.01.93 Benin v Tunisia 0-5
31.01.93 Tunisia v Ethiopia 3-0
31.01.93 Morocco v Benin 5-0
28.02.93 Benin v Ethiopia 1-0
28.02.93 Morocco v Tunisia 0-0

★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	6	4	2	0	13	1	10
Tunisia	6	3	3	0	14	2	9
Ethiopia	6	1	1	4	3	11	3
Benin	6	1	0	5	3	19	2

GROUP G

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal 0-1
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal 3-2
17.02.93 Mozambique v Gabon 1-1
30.01.93 Senegal v Mozambique 6-1
27.02.93 Senegal v Gabon 1-0

★ *Mauritania withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SENEGAL	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Gabon	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Mozambique	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

GROUP H

11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia 0-4
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia 2-0
17.01.93 Namibia v Madagascar 0-1
30.01.93 Zambia v Namibia 4-0
27.02.93 Zambia v Madagascar 3-1

★ *Burkina Faso withdrew and were replaced by Namibia. Tanzania also withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ZAMBIA	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Madagascar	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Namibia	4	0	0	4	0	12	0

GROUP I

20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya 4-0
27.02.93 Kenya v Guinea 2-0

★ *Gambia & Mali withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GUINEA	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Kenya	2	1	0	1	2	4	2

Second Round

GROUP A

France's Papin finds no way past Bulgaria's solid defence in Paris.

16.04.93 Algeria v Ivory Coast 1-1
02.05.93 Ivory Coast v Nigeria 2-1
03.07.93 Nigeria v Algeria 4-1
18.07.93 Ivory Coast v Algeria 1-0
25.09.93 Nigeria v Ivory Coast 4-1
08.10.93 Algeria v Nigeria 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NIGERIA	4	2	1	1	10	5	5
Ivory Coast	4	2	1	1	5	6	5
Algeria	4	0	2	2	3	7	2

Nigeria qualify for finals

GROUP B

18.04.93 Morocco v Senegal 1-0
04.07.93 Zambia v Morocco 2-1
17.07.93 Senegal v Morocco 1-3
07.08.93 Senegal v Zambia 0-0
05.09.93 Zambia v Senegal 4-0
10.10.93 Morocco v Zambia 1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MOROCCO	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Zambia	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Senegal	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Morocco qualify for finals

GROUP C

18.04.93 Cameroon v Guinea 3-1
02.05.93 Guinea v Zimbabwe 3-0
04.07.93 Zimbabwe v Cameroon 1-0
18.07.93 Guinea v Cameroon 0-1
26.09.93 Zimbabwe v Guinea 1-0
10.10.93 Cameroon v Zimbabwe 3-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CAMEROON	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Zimbabwe	4	2	0	2	3	6	4
Guinea	4	1	0	3	4	5	2

Cameroon qualify for finals

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Top two in Group A play (home & away) against top two in Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v P. Rico 1-2
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent 1-0
29.03.92 P. Rico v Dominican Rep. 1-1
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia 3-1

Preliminary Round
CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

26.04.92 Bermuda v Haiti 1-0
25.05.92 Jamaica v Puerto Rico 2-1
25.05.92 Haiti v Bermuda 2-1
30.05.92 Puerto Rico v Jamaica 0-1
St Vincent v Cuba★

★ *Cuba withdrew.*

St Vincent, Bermuda & Jamaica qualify for 1st rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

19.04.92 Dutch Antilles v Antigua 1-1
26.04.92 Antigua v Dutch Antilles 3-0
26.04.92 Guyana v Surinam 1-2
24.05.92 Barbados v Trin. & Tobago 1-2
25.05.92 Surinam v Guyana 1-1
31.05.92 Trin. & Tobago v Barbados 3-0

Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua and Surinam qualify for 1st rnd

First Round
CENTRAL REGION

19.07.92 Guatemala v Honduras 0-0
19.07.92 Nicaragua v El Salvador 0-5
23.07.92 El Salvador v Nicaragua 5-1
26.07.92 Honduras v Guatemala 2-0
16.08.92 Panama v Costa Rica 1-0
23.08.92 Costa Rica v Panama 5-1

El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica qualify for 2nd rnd

CARIBBEAN REGION

14.06.92 Antigua v Bermuda 0-3
05.07.92 Trinidad & Tobago v Jamaica ..1-2
04.07.92 Bermuda v Antigua 2-1
02.08.92 Surinam v St Vincent 0-0
16.08.92 Jamaica v Trinidad & Tobago ..1-1
30.08.92 St Vincent v Surinam 2-1

Bermuda, Jamaica and St Vincent qualify for 2nd rnd

Second Round
GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras 2-3
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico 0-4
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras 2-0
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica 0-1
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica 4-0
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras 0-4
29.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent 4-0
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico 2-0
05.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica 2-1
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent 11-0
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent 5-0
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	4	1	1	22	3	9
HONDURAS	6	4	1	1	14	6	9
Costa Rica	6	3	0	3	11	9	6
St. Vincent	6	0	0	6	0	29	0

Mexico & Honduras qualify for final rnd

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica 1-0
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda 4-1
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador 2-3
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda 3-2
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda 4-2
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador 0-2
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada 0-0
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
EL SALVADOR	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
CANADA	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Jamaica	6	1	2	3	6	9	4
Bermuda	6	1	2	3	7	12	4

El Salvador & Canada qualify for final rnd

Final Round

04.04.93 El Salvador v Mexico 2-1
04.04.93 Honduras v Canada 2-2
11.04.93 Mexico v Honduras 3-0
11.04.93 Canada v El Salvador 2-0
18.04.93 Canada v Honduras 3-1
18.04.93 Mexico v El Salvador 3-1
25.04.93 Mexico v Canada 4-0
25.04.93 Honduras v El Salvador 2-0
02.05.93 Honduras v Mexico 1-4
02.05.93 El Salvador v Canada 1-2
09.05.93 Canada v Mexico 1-2
09.05.93 El Salvador v Honduras 2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	6	5	0	1	17	5	10
Canada	6	3	1	2	10	10	7
El Salvador	6	2	0	4	6	11	4
Honduras	6	1	1	4	7	14	3

Mexico qualify for finals, Canada qualify for play-off with Australia.

Play-off
1st leg

31.07.93 Canada v Australia 2-1

2nd leg

15.08.93 Australia v Canada 2-1

Australia won 4-1 on pens & qualify for play-off with Argentina, see South America for details.

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/Oceania play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay 0-0
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina 0-1
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina 1-3
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia 0-1
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina 2-1
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru 2-1
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru 2-1
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia 1-1
29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay 0-0
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru 4-0
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia 0-5
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay 2-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
COLOMBIA	6	4	2	0	13	2	10
Argentina	6	3	1	2	7	9	7
Paraguay	6	1	4	1	6	7	6
Peru	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

Colombia qualify for finals, Argentina qualify for play-off with Australia.

GROUP B

18.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil 0-0
18.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia 1-7
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil 2-0
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay 0-1
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador 0-0
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil 1-5
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay 3-1
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela 5-0
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador 1-0
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil 1-1
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela 7-0
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador 2-0
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia 6-0
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela 4-0
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela 4-0
05.09.93 Ecuador v Uruguay 0-1
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia 2-1
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador 2-1
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay 2-0
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	8	5	2	1	20	4	12
BOLIVIA	8	5	1	2	22	11	11
Uruguay	8	4	2	2	10	7	10
Ecuador	8	1	3	4	7	7	5
Venezuela	8	1	0	7	4	34	2

Brazil and Bolivia qualify for finals.

Play-off
1st leg

31.10.93 Australia v Argentina 1-1

2nd leg

17.11.93 Argentina v Australia 1-0

Argentina won 2-1 on agg & qualify for finals

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

South Korea's Jang Yoon Nol is sandwiched by Japan's Katsaga and Horlike, during Japan's win in Doha.

GROUP 1

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRALIA	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

Australia qualify for final play-off

GROUP 2

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

New Zealand qualify for final play-off

Play-off
1st leg

30.05.93 New Zealand v Australia 0-1

2nd leg

06.06.93 Australia v New Zealand 3-0

Australia won 4-0 on agg and meet Canada in a play-off. See CONCACAF section for details.

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round
GROUP A

22.05.93 Jordan v Yemen ▲ 1-1
22.05.93 Pakistan v China ▲ 0-5
24.05.93 Jordan v Iraq ▲ 1-1
24.05.93 Yemen v Pakistan ▲ 5-1
26.05.93 Jordan v China ▲ 0-3
26.05.93 Yemen v Iraq ▲ 1-6
28.05.93 Pakistan v Iraq ▲ 0-8
28.05.93 Yemen v China ▲ 1-0
30.05.93 Jordan v Pakistan ▲ 3-1
30.05.93 Iraq v China ▲ 1-0
12.06.93 Yemen v Jordan ▼ 1-1
12.06.93 China v Pakistan ▼ 3-0
14.06.93 Iraq v Jordan ▼ 4-0
14.06.93 Pakistan v Yemen ▼ 0-3
16.06.93 China v Jordan ▼ 4-1
16.06.93 Iraq v Yemen ▼ 3-0
18.06.93 Iraq v Pakistan ▼ 4-0
18.06.93 China v Yemen ▼ 1-0
20.06.93 Pakistan v Jordan ▼ 0-5
20.06.93 China v Iraq ▼ 2-1

▲ in Amman, Jordan
▼ in Beijing, China

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAQ	8	6	1	1	28	4	13
China	8	6	0	2	18	4	12
Yemen	8	3	2	3	12	13	8
Jordan	8	2	3	3	12	15	7
Pakistan	8	0	0	8	2	36	0

GROUP B

23.06.93 Iran v Oman ▲ 0-0
23.06.93 Taiwan v Syria ▲ 0-2
25.06.93 Oman v Syria ▲ 0-0
25.06.93 Iran v Taiwan ▲ 6-0
27.06.93 Oman v Taiwan ▲ 2-1
27.06.93 Iran v Syria ▲ 1-1
02.07.93 Oman v Iran ▼ 0-1
02.07.93 Syria v Taiwan ▼ 8-1
04.07.93 Syria v Oman ▼ 2-1
04.07.93 Taiwan v Iran ▼ 0-6
06.07.93 Taiwan v Oman ▼ 1-7
06.07.93 Syria v Iran ▼ 1-1

▲ in Tehran, Iran
▼ in Damascus, Syria
★ *Myanmar (formerly Burma) withdrew.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
IRAN	6	3	3	0	15	2	9
Syria	6	3	3	0	14	4	9
Oman	6	2	2	2	10	5	6
Taiwan	6	0	0	6	3	31	0

GROUP C

09.04.93 Qatar v Indonesia ▲ 3-1
09.04.93 North Korea v Vietnam ▲ 3-0
11.04.93 North Korea v Singapore ▲ 2-1
11.04.93 Qatar v Vietnam ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 North Korea v Indonesia ▲ 4-0
13.04.93 Vietnam v Singapore ▲ 2-3
16.04.93 Qatar v Singapore ▲ 4-1
16.04.93 Vietnam v Indonesia ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Indonesia v Singapore ▲ 0-2
18.04.93 Qatar v North Korea ▲ 1-2
24.04.93 Indonesia v Qatar ▼ 1-4
24.04.93 Vietnam v North Korea ▼ 0-1
26.04.93 Singapore v North Korea ▼ 1-3
26.04.93 Vietnam v Qatar ▼ 0-4
28.04.93 Indonesia v North Korea ▼ 1-2
28.04.93 Singapore v Vietnam ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Singapore v Qatar ▼ 1-0
30.04.93 Indonesia v Vietnam ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 Singapore v Indonesia ▼ 2-1
02.05.93 North Korea v Qatar ▼ 2-2

▲ in Doha, Qatar
▼ in Singapore

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	19	6	15
Qatar	8	5	1	2	22	8	11
Singapore	8	5	0	3	12	12	10
Indonesia	8	1	0	7	6	19	2
Vietnam	8	1	0	7	4	18	2

GROUP D

07.05.93 Lebanon v India ▲ 2-2
07.05.93 Hong Kong v Bahrain ▲ 2-1
09.05.93 Bahrain v South Korea ▲ 0-0
09.05.93 Lebanon v Hong Kong ▲ 2-2
11.05.93 India v Hong Kong ▲ 1-2
11.05.93 Lebanon v South Korea ▲ 0-1
13.05.93 Lebanon v Bahrain ▲ 0-0
13.05.93 India v South Korea ▲ 0-3
15.05.93 Hong Kong v South Korea ▲ ..0-3
15.05.93 Bahrain v India ▲ 2-1
05.06.93 South Korea v Hong Kong ▼ ..3-0
05.06.93 Bahrain v Lebanon ▼ 0-0
07.06.93 India v Bahrain ▼ 0-3
07.06.93 South Korea v Lebanon ▼ 2-0
09.06.93 Hong Kong v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
09.06.93 South Korea v India ▼ 7-0
11.06.93 India v Lebanon ▼ 1-2
11.06.93 Bahrain v Hong Kong ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 South Korea v Bahrain ▼ 3-0
13.06.93 Hong Kong v India ▼ 1-3

▲ in Beirut, Lebanon
▼ in Seoul, South Korea

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SOUTH KOREA	8	7	1	0	22	0	15
Bahrain	8	3	3	2	9	6	9
Lebanon	8	2	4	2	8	9	8
Hong Kong	8	2	1	5	8	18	5
India	8	1	1	6	8	22	3

GROUP E

01.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▲ 6-0
01.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▲ 1-1
03.05.93 Kuwait v Macao ▲ 10-1
03.05.93 Malaysia v Saudi Arabia ▲ 1-1
05.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▲ 0-0
05.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▲ 9-0
14.05.93 Malaysia v Kuwait ▼ 0-2
14.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Macao ▼ 8-0
16.05.93 Macao v Kuwait ▼ 0-8
16.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Malaysia ▼ 3-0
18.05.93 Malaysia v Macao ▼ 5-0
18.05.93 Saudi Arabia v Kuwait ▼ 2-0

▲ in Kuala Lumpur
▼ in Riyadh

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	6	4	2	0	20	1	10
Kuwait	6	3	2	1	21	4	8
Malaysia	6	2	2	2	16	7	6
Macao	6	0	0	6	1	46	0

GROUP F

08.04.93 Japan v Thailand ▲ 1-0
08.04.93 Sri Lanka v UAE ▲ 0-4
11.04.93 Japan v Bangladesh ▲ 8-0
11.04.93 Thailand v Sri Lanka ▲ 1-0
13.04.93 Sri Lanka v Bangladesh ▲ 0-1
13.04.93 UAE v Thailand ▲ 1-0
15.04.93 Japan v Sri Lanka ▲ 5-0
15.04.93 UAE v Bangladesh ▲ 1-0
18.04.93 Japan v UAE ▲ 2-0
18.04.93 Thailand v Bangladesh ▲ 4-1
28.04.93 Thailand v Japan ▼ 0-1
28.04.93 UAE v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
30.04.93 Bangladesh v Japan ▼ 1-4
30.04.93 Thailand v UAE ▼ 1-2
03.05.93 Bangladesh v UAE ▼ 0-7
03.05.93 Sri Lanka v Thailand ▼ 0-3
05.05.93 Bangladesh v Thailand ▼ 1-4
05.05.93 Sri Lanka v Japan ▼ 0-6
07.05.93 Bangladesh v Sri Lanka ▼ 3-0
07.05.93 UAE v Japan ▼ 1-1

▲ in Tokyo, Japan
▼ in Dubai, UAE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JAPAN	8	7	1	0	28	2	15
UAE	8	6	1	1	19	4	13
Thailand	8	4	0	4	13	7	8
Bangladesh	8	2	0	6	7	28	4
Sri Lanka	8	0	0	8	0	26	0

Second Round

15.10.93 North Korea v Iraq 3-2
15.10.93 Saudi Arabia v Japan 0-0
16.10.93 Iran v South Korea 0-3
18.10.93 North Korea v Saudi Arabia 1-2
18.10.93 Japan v Iran 1-2
19.10.93 Iraq v South Korea 2-2
21.10.93 North Korea v Japan 0-3
22.10.93 Iran v Iraq 1-2
22.10.93 South Korea v Saudi Arabia 1-1
24.10.93 Iraq v Saudi Arabia 1-1
25.10.93 Japan v South Korea 1-0
25.10.93 Iran v North Korea 2-1
28.10.93 South Korea v North Korea 3-0
28.10.93 Saudi Arabia v Iran 4-3
28.10.93 Iraq v Japan 2-2

● all matches in Doha, Qatar.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SAUDI ARABIA	5	2	3	0	8	6	7
SOUTH KOREA	5	2	2	1	9	4	6
Japan	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Iraq	5	1	3	1	9	9	5
Iran	5	2	0	3	8	11	4
North Korea	5	1	0	4	5	12	2

Saudi Arabia & South Korea qualify for finals

RESULTS

Standard beat Liege in Belgian Cup derby . . . Setubal beat Benfica 5

EUROPE

AUSTRIA

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 3
STURM GRAZ 0

VfB MODLING 1
ADMIRA WACKER 1

VORWARTS STEYR 0
SALZBURG 2

INNSBRUCK 2
SPORTCLUB 0

ST POLTEN 1
RAPID WIEN 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

SPORTCLUB 0
AUSTRIA WIEN 1

ADMIRA WACKER 4
ST POLTEN 3

STURM GRAZ 1
VfB MODLING 0

RAPID WIEN 0
SALZBURG 3

INNSBRUCK 3
VORWARTS STEYR 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 2
INNSBRUCK 1

VfB MODLING 1
SPORTCLUB 0

SALZBURG 0
ADMIRA WACKER 0

VORWARTS STEYR 3
RAPID WIEN 0

ST POLTEN 2
STURM GRAZ 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

AUSTRIA WIEN 3
VfB MODLING 0

STURM GRAZ 1
RAPIE WIEN 2

SPORTCLUB 0
SALZBURG 1

INNSBRUCK 2
ST POLTEN 1

VORWARTS STEYR 0
ADMIRA WACKER 0

BELGIUM

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

GENT 0
STANDARD 0. Att: 7,000.

CERCLE BRUGES 0
CHARLEROI 1 (Malbasa 16). **Att:** 2,000.

GENK 1 (Van de Ven 41)
RWDM 4 (Lorincz 12, Rubenilson 63, 81, Wuyts 73). **Att:** 6,000.

SERAING 1 (Lukaku 75)
MECHELEN 0. **Att:** 7,000.

LIEGE 0
BEVEREN 2 (Udovic 81, Machiels 82 og). **Att:** 4,000.

WAREGEM 0
CLUB BRUGGE 1 (Amokachi 38). **Att:** 11,000.

ANDERLECHT 1 (Bosman 65 pen)
LIERSE 0. **Att:** 9,000.

ANTWERP 1 (Segers 21)
EKEREN 1 (Talbut 4). **Att:** 6,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

BELGIAN CUP — 2nd round

RWDM 1
CERLE BRUGES 0

BEVEREN 1
BEERSCHOT 2

SERAING 3
DEINZE 0

CHARLEROI 2
SPORTING CHARLEROI 4

GENK 2
LOKEREN 3

ANTWERP 4
ST NIKLAAS 0

LOMMEL 5
LIERSE 3

UNION SAINT-GILLES 0
EKEREN 6

CLUB BRUGGE 4
MECHELEN 2

WAREGEM 3
OVERPEL 0

MOUSCRON 1
OOSTEND 2

GENT 1
ANDERLECHT 2

STANDARD 3
LIEGE 2

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

CHARLEROI 3 (Missemisse 42, 66, 83)
ANTWERP 2 (Emmerechts 30, Bursac 78). **Att:** 12,000.

STANDARD 4 (Cruze 14, Rednic 43, Vilmots 51, Hellers 61)
CERCLE BRUGES 0. **Att:** 9,000.

LIERSE 1 (Simmes 14)
GENT 2 (Schepens 26, 75). **Att:** 4,000.

LOMMEL 1 (Vanaken 44)
ANDERLECHT 1 (Haagdoren 8). **Att:** 13,000.

CLUB BRUGGE 3 (Amokachi 7, Dzubinski 53, Vermandt 90)
LIEGE 0. **Att:** 8,000.

MECHELEN 2 (Sabbadini 59, 75)
GENK 2 (Goots 1, Beyens 39). **Att:** 7,246.

EKEREN 1 (Talbut 83)
WAREGEM 0. **Att:** 2,500.

RWDM 2 (Rubenilson 31, Williams 65)
OOSTENDE 1 (Renty 69). **Att:** 850.

BEVEREN 1 (Massagie 20)
SERAING 1 (Faguenne 23). **Att:** 5,000.

HOLLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

MIDWEEK

VVV 1 (Graef 32)
FEYENOORD 1 (Obiku 67). **Att:** 12,450.

PSV 0
VITESSE 1 (Gillhaus 88). **Att:** 25,850.

CAMBUUR 0
AJAX 3 (Rijkaard 8, Overmars 58, Litmanen 69). **Att:** 12,500.

GRONINGEN 0
VOLENDAM 0. **Att:** 10,444.

WEEKEND

NAC 0
AJAX 5 (Litmanen 7, 65, Petersson 47, Alfien 61, Overmars 70). **Att:** 11,684.

RODA 4 (Hofstede 2, 80, Van Galen 6, Huiberts 88)
UTRECHT 0. **Att:** 5,900.

RKC 1 (Boogers 35)
GA EAGLES 2 (Schenning 38, Marbu 40). **Att:** 2,250.

GRONINGEN 2 (Ter Avest 38, Hamming 46)
HEERENVEEN 2 (Tammer 82, Echield 89). **Att:** 14,101.

VOLENDAM 0
WILLEM II 3 (Stewart 9, Koorn 66 og, Soumah 89). **Att:** 2,250.

FEYENOORD 4 (Van Loen 39 pen, Van Gobbel 74, Witschge 85, Scholten 90)
MVV 0. **Att:** 23,750.

CAMBUUR 1 (Meijer 42)
PSV 3 (Lamptey 16, Numan 19, Van Ankeren 71). **Att:** 7,000.

TWENTE 0
SPARTA 0. **Att:** 5,400.

VVV 2 (Graaf 74, Polman 86)
VITESSE 1 (Pothuizen). **Att:** 5,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

WEEKEND

WILLEM II 4 (Van Castel 6, Sylla 41, Van Arum 53, Stewart 71)
GRONINGEN 1 (Reiziger 42). **Att:**7,000.

MVV 2 (Roelofsen 51, 81)
NAC 1 (Van Hoeydonck 29). **Att:** 5,575.

HEERENVEEN 1 (Keur 63)
GA EAGLES 4 (Rorije 26, Camelon 37, Heering 47, 52). **Att:** 13,500.

VITESSE 3 (Caamers 38, Helder 66, Gilhaus 78)
TWENTE 0. **Att:** 6,765.

RODA 2 (Van Galen 78, Babangida 86)
RKC 0. **Att:** 3,656.

AJAX 3 (Litmanen 45, Pettersson 50, R. De Boer 72)
VOLENDAM 1 (Freitas 89). **Att:** 19,154.

PSV 3 (Kalusha 8, 19, Meijer 67)
VVV 2 (Laros 25, Verberne 52). **Att:** 24,450.

UTRECHT 2 (Vo Net 7, Vo Meer 54)
CAMBUUR 0. **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

MIDWEEK

VVV 0
WILLEM II 0

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

GA EAGLES 3 (Rorije 19, 29, 87)
WILLEM II 0. **Att:** 5,000.

NAC BREDA 4 (Lammers 35, 38, Remie 57, Van Hooijdonk 79)
SPARTA 3 (Bogarde 8, 27, Van Eck 81). **Att:** 10,150.

RKC 1 (Boogers 65)
HEERENVEEN 1 (Alberda 10). **Att:** 1,200.

GRONINGEN 0
AJAX 4 (Seedorf 55, Overmars 71, George 74, Pettersson 75). **Att:** 14,577.

VOLENDAM 5 (Obdam 5, Bond 21, 60 pen, Stefanovic 47, Steur 89)
MVV 0. **Att:** 1,750.

FEYENOORD 1 (Van Loen 34 pen)
VITESSE 1 (Dewolf 73 og). **Att:** 26,871.

CAMBUUR v RODA — *postponed*

TWENTE v PSV — *postponed*

VVV 1 (Priessen 62)
UTRECHT 1 (De Jong 59). **Att:** 4,278.

PORTUGAL

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

MIDWEEK

PACOS FERREIRA 1 (Rudi 63)
BENFICA 2 (Ailton 82, Joao Pinto 90). **Att:** 14,300.

WEEKEND

ESTORIL 1 (Voinov 83 pen)
BELENENSES 0. **Att:** 7,000.

BEIRA-MAR 2 (Punisic 3, M. Bruno 43)

SETUBAL 1 (Yekini 58 pen). **Att:** 12,000.

FC PORTO 2 (J. Carlos 11 pen, Kostadinov 44)
AMADORA 1 (Edmundo 22). **Att:** 10,000.

BENFICA 4 (Helder 25, Joao Pinto 29, Rui Costa 47, Rui Aguas 88)
SALGUEIROS 1 (M. Simao 34). **Att:** 20,000.

BOAVISTA 2 (Nelo 43, Marlon Brandao 72 pen)
SPORTING 1 (P. Torres 76). **Att:** 15,000.

MARITIMO 3 (Edmilson 13, J. Andrade 60, Heitor 68)
PACOS FERREIRA 3 (Yulian 45, P. Sergio 64, Tsoumou 70). **Att:** 12,400.

GUIMARAES 2 (Alexandrov 29, Ziad 34)
UNIAO MADEIRA 0. **Att:** 11,600.

FAMALICAO 1 (Milanko 47 pen)
BRAGA 0. **Att:** 9,000.

FARENSE 4 (Hassan 15, Mane 36, Hugo 43, J. Soares 84)
GIL VICENTE 2 (Mangonga 31, Drulovic 59). **Att:** 10,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

GIL VICENTE 2 (Drulovic 64, 70)
GUIMARAES 1 (Pedro 46). **Att:** 8,300.

BRAGA 4 (Karoglan 6, 53, Monteiro 44, F. Pires 50)
FARENSE 0. **Att:** 13,850.

UNIAO v BOAVISTA — *postponed*

PACOS FERREIRA 2 (Chico Oliveira 46, P. Sergio 89)
FAMALICAO 0. **Att:** 10,000.

SPORTING 0
FC PORTO 1 (Domingos 6). **Att:** 30,000.

SALGUEIROS 1 (M. Simao 46)
MARITIMO 1 (Heitor 12). **Att:** 7,200.

AMADORA 3 (Fernando 7, 19, Caio Jr 86)
ESTORIL 0. **Att:** 9,000.

SETUBAL 5 (Yekini 28, 73, S. Araujo 38, P. Gomes 40, Chiquinho 82)
BENFICA 2 (Paneira 56, Ailton 66). **Att:**35,000.

BELENENSES 2 (Mauro Airez 8, V. Manuel 72)
BEIRA-MAR 0. **Att:** 8,000.

SWITZERLAND

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 4 (Renato 5, 90) Anderson 42, Egli 77)
ZURICH 2 (Balijic 58, Grassi 74). **Att:** 5,500.

YVERDON 2 (Vrosevic 80)
NEUCHATEL 0. **Att:** 4,200.

KRIENS 0
AARAU 1 (Heldmann 88). **Att:** 3,000.

YOUNG BOYS 1 (Ippoliti 88)
LAUSANNE 4 (Virel 20, La Placa 21, 62, Sogbie 39). **Att:** 6,500.

SION 2 (Rey 31, 57)
LUGANO 0. **Att:** 7,500.

GRASSHOPPER 2 (Willems 47, 59)
LUCERNE 0. **Att:** 5,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

WEEKEND

AARAU 1 (Pavlicevic 31)
ZURICH 0. **Att:** 4,500.

GRASSHOPPER 1 (Gren 82)
SERVETTE 0. **Att:** 3,400.

NEUCHATEL 0
KRIENS 0. **Att:** 5,800.

LUCERNE 1 (Duge 56)
SION 1 (Rey 37). **Att:** 7,100.

LAUSANNE 0
YVERDON 0. **Att:** 5,880.

LUGANO 0
YOUNG BOYS 2 (Ippoliti 8, Kunz 57). **Att:** 2,500.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

WEEKEND

SERVETTE 1 (Neuville 65)
AARAU 1 (Hermann 76). **Att:** 4,500.

YVERDON 2 (Subiat 6, Andrioli 39)
LUGANO 2 (Vrosevic 9, 81). **Att:** 2,800.

KRIENS 1 (Rossi 82)
LAUSANNE 3 (Sogbie 13, Gwerder 45 og, Alexandre Consetti 92). **Att:** 1,100.

YOUNG BOYS 3 (Wolf 46, Hartman 7[illegible] Bregy 81)
LUCERNE 1 (Van Eck 29 og). **Att:** 4,56[illegible]

ZURICH 2 (Waas 77, 91)
NEUCHATEL 2 (Adriano 24, Ramzy 6[illegible]). **Att:** 2,500.

SION 1 (Piffaretti 28)
GRASSHOPPER 0. **Att:** 11,000.

INTERNATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

Oct 20 = San Diego, Calif — intl
MEXICO 2 (Salvador 14, Galindo 35)
UKRAINE 1 (Ramirez og 33)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 53,892.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Nov 3 = San Diego — intl
MEXICO 3 (Ambriz 30pen, Salvador 42, Hermosillo 90)
CHINA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 55,135.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Nov 7 = Fullerton, Calif — intl
UNITED STATES 1 (Lalas 32)
JAMAICA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,318. **Ref:** Tanaka (Jap)
US: Meola — Armstrong, Lapper, Agoos (Michallik 73), Lalas, Dooley, Sorber (Chung 79), Henderson (Santel 46), Moore, Perez (Kinnear 46), Washington (Quinn 60).
Jamaica: Barrett — Sewell, Dixon, Brown, Young, Wright (Whitmore 82), Butler, Fonter, Davis, Valentin (Ziadis 46), Jarrett (Dias 46).

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Nov 10 = Lisbon/Stade da Luz — WC Euro gp 1
PORTUGAL 3 (Futre 2, Oceano 37pen, Rui Aguas 86)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 107,000. **Ref:** Blareau (Bel)
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto I, Oceano, Fernando Couto, Nogueira (Folha 75) — Paulo Sousa, Rui Barros, Rui Costa (Vitor Paneira 60) — Joao Pinto II, Rui Aguas, Futre.
Estonia: Poom — R Kallaste, Prins, Kaljend, Hepner — Ratnikov, Bragin, Borisov, Klavan (Linnumae 70) — Rajala (Pustov 46), Reim.

Nov 10 = Istanbul — WC Euro gp 2
TURKEY 2 (Ertegrul 5, 26)
NORWAY 1 (Bohinen 49)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Khusainov (Rus)
Turkey: Hayrettin — Gokhan, Ogun

(Emre 46), Bulent, Yusuf, Suat, Mehmet 80), Tugay, Abdullah, Oguz, Ertugrul, Orhan.
Norway: Thorstvedt — Berg, Bjoernebye, Bratseth, Halle, T Pedersen, Bohinen, J I Jacobsen (Fjortoft 70), Johnsen, Mykland (Leonhardson 59), Hjetl, Rekdal.

Nov 10 = Vienna — WC Euro gp 6
AUSTRIA 1 (Herzog 69)
SWEDEN 1 (Mild 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Feiersinger, Lainer, Winklhofer, Kogler, Reinmayr, Pacult (Westerthaler 71), Artner, Polster, Herzog, Stoeger.
Sweden: Ravelli — R Nilsson, P Andersson, Kamark, Ljung, Schwarz, Mild, Landberg (Alexandersson 75), Zetterberg, Jan Jansson, Larsson (Lilienberg 73).

Nov 10 = Tel Aviv — WC Euro gp 6
ISRAEL 1 (Harazi 89)
FINLAND 3 (Hiekkinen 54, Hjelm 74, 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Roduit (Swi)
Israel: Ginzburg — A Harazi, Klinger, Shelach, Glam — Hazan, Levy, Nimny — Rosenthal, R Harazi, Ohana.
Finland: Jakonen — Kinnunen, Heikinnen, Petaja, Hyrylainen — Suominen, Litmanen, Lindberg — Hjelm, Aaltonen, Paavola.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Nov 14 = Mission Viejo, Calif — intl
UNITED STATES 8 (Kinnear 9, 30, Moore 19, 88, Chung 46, 85, Agoos 33, Santel 87)
CAYMAN ISLANDS 1 (L Ramoon 67)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 3,612. **Ref:** Baharmast (US)
US: Friedel — Armstrong, Lapper, Agoos (Martin 46), Lalas, Sorber (Smith 46), Kinnear (Santel 63), Henderson (Michallik 46), Jones, Perez (Chung 46), Moore.
Cayman Is: Walton (Coleman 80) — New (F Smith 85), Seymour, Haylock, Bodden, Williams (McField 42), Murray, A Ramoon (Ebanks 76), A Smith, L Ramoon, Rivers.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Nov 17 = Buenos Aires/Monumental — WC S America-Oceania play-off
ARGENTINA 1 (Batistuta 60)
AUSTRALIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)
Argentina: Goycochea — Chamot, Vazquez, Ruggeri, MacAllister, Simeone, Perez, Redondo, Maradona, Balbo (Zapata 68), Batistuta.
Australia: Zabica — Ivanovic, Tony Vidmar (Neart 63), Durakovic, Tobin, Van Blerk, Slater, Wade, Aurelio Vidmar, Arnold, Farina.

Nov 17 = Milan — WC Euro gp 1
ITALY 1 (Dino Baggio 83)
PORTUGAL 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol)
Italy: Pagliuca — Benarrivo, Maldini, Stroppa (Albertini 81), Costacurta, Baresi, Donadoni, Dino Baggio, Casiraghi, Roberto Baggio, Signori (Mancini 76).
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto (Rui Aguas 76), Veloso, Vitor Paneira, Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto*, Paulo Sousa, Rui Barros, Joao Vieira Pinto, Futre, Rui Costa (Domingos 68).
** Fernando Couto sent off, 87min.*

Nov 17 = Valletta — WC Euro gp 1
MALTA 0
SCOTLAND 2 (McKinlay 15, Hendry 74)**HT:** 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Vassilakis (Gre)
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, Buhagiar (Saliba 45), Galea, Brincat, Buttigieg, Busuttil, Spiteri, Suda (Scerri 74), Laferla, Gregory.
Scotland: Leighton — McLaren, McKinnon, Durrant (Boyd 74), Hendry, Irvine, Ferguson, McKinley (Booth 45), Nevin, McAllister, Gallacher.

Nov 17 = Zurich/Hardturm — WC Euro gp 1
SWITZERLAND 4 (Knup 32, Bregy 34, Ohrel 45, Chapuisat 61)
ESTONIA 0
HT: 3-0. Att 20,000. **Ref:** Petrovic (Yug)
Switzerland: Pascolo — Hottiger, Herr, Geiger, Quentin (Kubilay Turkyilmaz 67), Ohrel (Rueda 46), Bregy, Bickel, Alain Sutter, Knup, Chapuisat.
Estonia: Poom — Hepner, Kaljend, Prins, Risto Kallaste, Reim, Borisov, Olumets, Bragin, Klavan (Pustov 78), Rajala (Linnumae 47).

Nov 17 = Poznan — WC Euro gp 2
POLAND 1 (Lesniak 12)
HOLLAND 3 (Bergkamp 10, 56, R De Boer 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Poland: Matysek — Jalocha (Czerwiec 78), Michalski, Kruszankin, Waldoch, Kozminski, Robert Warzycha (Cebula 65), Lewandowski, Adamczuk, Lesniak, Kowalczyk.
Holland: De Goey — Van Gobbel, Ronald Koeman, Frank De Boer, Erwin Koeman, Wouters, Winter, Ronald De Boer, Overmars, Bergkamp, Roy.

Nov 17 = Bologna — WC Euro gp 2
SAN MARINO 1 (Gualtieri 9sec)
ENGLAND 7 (Ince 21, 73, Wright 32, 46, 78, 90, Ferdinand 43)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 2,378. **Ref:** Nazri (Malay)
San Marino: Benedettini — Valentini (Gobbi 47), Gennari, Zanotti, Canti, Guerra, Manzaroli, Della Valle, Bacciocchi (P Mazza 62), Bonini, Gualtieri.
England: Seaman — Dixon, Pearce, Ripley, Walker, Pallister, Platt, Wright, Ferdinand, Sinton, Ince.

Nov 17 = Belfast — WC Euro gp 3
N IRELAND 1 (J Quinn 73)
REP IRELAND 1 (McLoughlin 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,200. **Ref:** Cakar (Tur)
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, Worthington, Taggart, McDonald, Donaghy, Wilson (Black 82), Magilton, Quinn, Gray (Dowie 72), Hughes.
Rep Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, Phelan, McGrath, Keane, Townsend, Houghton (McLoughlin 70), Quinn, Aldridge (Cascarino 81), McGoldrick.

Nov 17 = Seville — WC Euro gp 3
SPAIN 1 (Hierro 63)
DENMARK 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gre)
Spain: *Zubizareta — Ferrer, Giner, Alkorta, Camarasa (Canizares 10), Nadal, Hierro, Goikoetxea, Salinas (Quique Narvaez 52), Bakero, Luis Enrique.
** Zubizarreta sent off, 10min; Canizares came on as sub for Camarasa to go in goal.*
Denmark: Schmeichel — Steen Nielsen (Kjeldbjerg 46), Rieper, John Jensen, Friis-Hansen, Vilfort, L Olsen, H Larsen, M Laudrup, Povlsen (Christensen 71), B Laudrup.

Nov 17 = Brussels — WC Euro gp 4
BELGIUM 0
CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0
Att: 21,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Belgium: De Wilde — Medved, De Wolf, Smidts, *Albert, Staelens, Van der Est, Versavel, Scifo, Oliveira (Boffin 52), Nilis (Czerniatynski 79).
** Albert sent off, 50min.*
Czechoslovakia: Kouba — Novotny, Kadlec, Suchoparek (Timko 80), Hasek, Dubovsky, Nemecek, Hapal (Latal 73), Moravcik, Skuhravy, Kuka.

Nov 17 = Cardiff — WC Euro gp 4
WALES 1 (Saunders 61)
ROMANIA 1 (Hagi 32, Raducioiu 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swi)
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Bodin (Malcolm Allen 71), Melville, Young, Symons (Goss 53), Horne, Saunders, Rush, Speed, Giggs.
Romania: Prunea — Petrescu, Prodan, Belodedici, Lupescu, Popescu, Selymesi (Munteanu 74), Sabau, Raducioiu, Hagi, Dumitrescu (Mihali 89).

Nov 17 = Athens — WC Euro gp 5
GREECE 1 (Machlas 68)
RUSSIA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Diramba (Gab)
Greece: Minou — Apostolakis, Karataides, Manolas, Ioannides, Tsalouhides, Saravakos (Alexandris 75), Nioplias, Mahlas, Mitropoulos (Marangos 33), Tsiantakis.
Russia: Cherchesov — Kulkov, Onopko, Khlestov, Nikiforov, Dobrovolsky, Popov (Mostovoi 80), Kolyvanov, Yuran (Salenko 46), Salenko, Kiryakov.

Nov 17 = Paris — WC Euro gp 6
FRANCE 1 (Cantona 31)
BULGARIA 2 (Kostadinov 36, 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 48,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco)
France: Lama — Blanc, Petit, Desailly, Le Guen, Roche, Deschamps, Sauzee (Guerin 81), Pedros, Papin (Ginola 69), Cantona.
Bulgaria: Mihailov — Hubchev, Tsvetanov (Borimirov 82), Kremenliev, Ivanov, Lechkov (Alexandrov 82), Balakov, Yankov, Stoichkov, Kostadinov, Penev.

Nov 17 = Cologne — intl
GERMANY 2 (Buchwald 37, Moller 40)
BRAZIL 1 (Evair 39)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 51,000. **Ref:** Damgaard (Den)
Germany: Illgner — Effenberg, Brehme, Kohler, Helmer, Buchwald, Moller, Hassler, Riedle (Kirsten 32), Matthaus, Klinsmann (Gaudino 86).
Brazil: Ronaldo — Jorginho, Marcio Santos (Mozer 46), Ricardo Gomes, Dunga, Branco, Edmundo, Zinho, Evair (Edilson 66), Rai (Valber 66), Paulo Sergio.

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24

GROUP A
GALATASARAY 0
BARCELONA 0
Att: 30,000. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel).
Galatasaray: Hayrettin — Stumpf, Bulent, Yusuf Tepekule, Goetz (Yusuf 29), Tugay, Ugur (Arif 70), Hamza, Hakan, Suat, Kubilay Turkyilmaz.
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Guardiola, R Koeman, Nadal, Bakero, Juan Carlos (Amor 60), Eusebio (Quique Estebaranz 77), M Laudrup, Romario, Sergi.

MONACO 4 (Klinsmann 17, Ikpeba 41, Djorkaeff 62pen, Thuram 89)
MOSCOW SPARTAK 1 (Pisarev 49)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Baldas (Ita)
Monaco: Ettori — Valery, Petit, Dumas, Sonor, Puel, Thuram, Djorkaeff (Passi 85), Scifo, Ikpeba (Gnako 68), Klinsmann.
Spartak: Pomazuon — Tsymbalar, Nikiforov, Mamedov, Ivanov, Khlestov, Ledyakov, Onopko, Karpin, Beschastnykh, Pisarev.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Monaco	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Barcelona	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Galatasaray	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Spartak Moscow	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

GROUP B
ANDERLECHT 0
MILAN 0
Att: 28,000. **Ref:** Zhuk (Bye)
Anderlecht: De Wilde — Crasson, Rutjes, Albert, De Wolf, Walem, Zetterberg, Bosman, Haagdoren, Versavel, Boffin (Van Baekel 90).
Milan: Rossi — Panucci, Costacurta, Baresi, Maldini, B Laudrup, Albertini, Donadoni, Orlando, Papin, Simone (Massaro 75).

FC PORTO 3 (Domingos Oliveira 7, Rui Jorge 34, Jose Carlos 82)
WERDER BREMEN 2 (Bernd Hobsch 85, Wynton Rufer 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng).
Porto: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto, Rui Jorge, Aloisio, Jorge Costa, Jose Carlos, Secretario, Kostadinov (Jaime Magalhaes 75), Domingos, Semedo, Paulinho Santos (Rui Filipe 87).
Bremen: Reck — Basler, Bode (Neubarth 65), Bratseth, Beiersdorfer (Wolter 46), Legat, Eilts, Votava, Hobsch, Herzog, Rufer.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Porto	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Anderlecht	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Milan	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Werder Bremen	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

UEFA CUP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

3rd round — 1st leg

BORDEAUX 1 (Zidane 77)
KARLSRUHE 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,000 *(played Nov 23)*.

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 1 (Dickhaut 89)
DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000 *(played Nov 23)*.

OFI CRETE 1 (Velic 89)
BOAVISTA 4 (Artur Oliveira 4, 22, 54, Owubokiri 42)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 10,000 *(played Nov 23)*.

BRONDBY 1 (Kristensen 19)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 1 (Chapuisat 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,817.

JUVENTUS 3 (Moller 3, R Baggio 69pen, Ravanelli 75)
TENERIFE 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000.

NORWICH 0
INTERNAZIONALE 1 (Bergkamp 81pen)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,805. **Ref:** Muhmenthaler (Swi)
Norwich: Gunn — Culverhouse, Bowen, Butterworth, Polston, Newman, Sutch (Power 75), Crook, Sutton, Fox, Goss.
Inter: Zenga — Bergomi, Orlando, M Paganin, A Paganin, Battistini, Dell'Anno, Jonk, Fontolan (Schillaci 90), Bergkamp, Sosa (Ferri 89).

SPORTING LISBON 2 (Cherbakov 24, Cadete 63)
AUSTRIA SALZBURG 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,500

MECHELEN 1 (Czerniatynski 38)
CAGLIARI 3 (Matteoli 33, Oliviera 82, Pusceddu 87)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 7,000 *(played Nov 25)*

SOUTH AMERICA

SUPER CUP
(for Libertadores Cup winners)
1st round — 1st leg

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5

In La Plata, Argentina.
ESTUDIANTES (Arg) 2 (Gonzalez, Calderon)
BOCA JUNIORS (Arg) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Juan C. Loustau (Arg).
Estudiantes: Yorno, Pratola, Iribarren, Erbin, Gaitan, Paris (Fontana), Pighin, Gonzalez, Calderon, Palermo, A. Paz.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Giuntini, Noreiga, C. MacAllister, Sonora, Medero, Saldana, Tapia, Da Silva, Graciani, Acosta.
● Boca Juniors, with individually better players, were well below form against poor rivals who were a bit more dangerous in the second half.

In Santos, Brazil.
SANTOS (Bra) 0
NACIONAL (Col) 0
Att: 4,300. **Ref:** Jose Da Rosa (Uru).
Santos: Veloso, Indio, Junior, Ricardo Rocha, Eduardo, Axel, Marcio, Darci, Almir, Neizinho (Guga), Sergio Manuel.
Nacional: Castaneda, Restrepo, Marolanda, Escobar, Osorio, Gomez, Gaviria, Serna, Garcia, Trellez, Zuniga (Carmona).
● Santos were more aggressive in the fight for midfield control, but could not get past the Nacional defence in spite of being well on top in the second half. Midfielder Gabriel Gomez tried hard to get Nacional going, but he was sent off for rough play with 10 minutes to go.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 6 (Luis Fernando, Ronaldo 3, Nonato, Edenilson)
COLO COLO (Chi) 1 (Reyes)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,100. **Ref:** Julio Mato (Uru).
Cruzeiro: Sergio, Paulo Roberto, Macale, Celio Lucio, Nonato, Robson, Ademir, Ronaldo, Luis Fernando, Careca, Edenilson.
Colo Colo: M. Ramirez, Margas, Baena, Reyes, Ramirez, Salvatierra, Contreras, Vega, Hurtado, Yanez, Ferraquzzi.
● Cruzeiro dominated completely with faster play.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Moas og, Valdeir)
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,100. **Ref:** Oscar Velazquez.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Gilmar, Ronaldo, Andre, Dinho, Cerezo, Juninho, Palhinha (Doriva), Valdir, Muller.
Independiente: Islas, Craviotto, Serrizuela, Moas, Ramirez, Vesio, Perez, Cagna, Garnero (Cassini), Parodi, Alfaro Moreno (Gareca).
● Independiente surprised their rivals with fast attacking soccer, but they left open spaces at the back which the Brazilians made good use of. But Independiente's Gareca should have been awarded a penalty near the end.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Cardoso)
FLAMENGO (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg).
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Guendulain, Jara, Sotelo (V. Sanabria), Chavez (Campos), Cardoso, Caballero.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Jorge Antonio, Junior Bahiano, Rogerio, Pia, Charles, Fabinho, Marquinhos (Nunes), Marcelinho, Casagrande, Nelio (Edu).
● Olimpia dominated and missed goal chances while Flamengo goalkeeper Gilmar also made some good saves.

In Montevideo, Uruguay.
NACIONAL (Uru) 1 (Canals pen)
RACING CLUB (Arg) 1 (Castro)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Bra).
Nacional: Sere, Mendez, Canals, Revelez, Pintos Saldana, Gutierrez, Saravia, O'Neill (Miranda), Suarez, Vidal Gonzalez, Morales (Lemos).
Racing: Gonzalez, Zaccanti, Galvan, Vallejos, Distefano, Marini (Quiroz), Alleque, Akselman (De Vincente), Ramirez, Castro, Galarza.
● In spite of sending a reserve team — as they are more interested in their domestic championship — Racing managed to get a valuable away point. There were few goal chances on either side in the first half, but Racing were more dangerous in the second until they scored with 14 minutes to go. Then they defended their lead, but Nacional equalized from the penalty spot seven minutes from the end.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7

In Montevideo, Uruguay.
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Silva)
GRMEIO (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Salvador Imperatore (Chi).
Penarol: Rebaja, Da Silva, Gutierrez, De los Santos, Lima, Dorta, Baltierra, Rehermann (Rodriguez), Bengoechea (Quintana), Otero, Silva.
Gremio: Danrlei, Alfinete, Paulao, Agnaldo, Brenco, Fabinho, Pingo, Miguel, Diaz (Adil), Caio, Gilson (Carlinhos).
● Penarol goalkeeper Rebaja made some excellent saves when Gremio fought back after Penarol had taken the lead just after half-time.

1st round — 2nd leg

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

In Santiago, Chile.
COLO COLO (Chi) 3 (Contreras, Rubio, Etcheverry pen)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 3 (Careca, Ronaldo 2)
HT: 101. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Cruzeiro won 9-4 on agg.
Colo Colo: Letelier, Baena, Savatierra, Ramirez, Reyes, Contreras (Vergara), Herrera, Vega, Etcheverry, Rubio, Castillo (Hurtado).
Cruzeiro: Sergio, Paulo Roberto, Robson, Celio Lucio (Toninho Cerezo), Nonato, Macale, Ademir, Rogerio, Boladeiro, Careca (Edenilson), Ronaldo.

WEDNESDAY, OCCTOBER 13

In Medellin, Colombia.
NACIONAL (Col) 1 (Trellez)
SANTOS (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0.
Nacional won 1-0 on agg.
Nacional: Castaneda, Herrera, Marulanda, Escobar, Osorio, Gaviria, Restrepo, M. Serna, Garcia, Aristizabal (A. Serna), Trellez (Zuniga).
Santos: Velloso, Indio, Junior, Rocha (Fernandez), Eduardo (Sergio Manuel), Axel, Marcio, Galo, Darcio, Almir, Guga.
● While goalkeeper Castaneda shone in keeping Santos at bay, Nacional could have won more easily, but missed chances.

In Mendoza, Argentina.
ARGENTINOS JUNIORS (Arg) 1 (Calvo)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Rivarola, Silvani)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Juan Bava (Arg), replaced for 2nd half by Anibal Hay (Arg).
River Plate won 4-2 on agg.
Argentinos Jrs: Mondragon, Tarico (Calvo), Bustos, Traverso, Duarte, Acuna, Gancedo, Pizarro, W.Paz (Ortega Sanchez), Cedres, Blanco.
River Plate: Goycocea, H. Diaz, Corti, Rivarola, Altamirano, Toresani, Astrada, Berti, Medina Bello (Ortega), Silvani, Villalba (Lavallen).
● Silvani scored River Plate's winner as he did in the first leg, but this time only in the final minute of an even game.

In Avellaneda, Argentina.
INDEPENDIENTE (Arg) 1 (Perez)
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Valdeir)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ernesto Fillipi (Uru).
Sao Paulo won 3-1 on agg.
Independiente: Islas, Arzeno, Rotchen, Moas, Ramirez, Cascini (Desio), Perez, Cagna, Garnero (Gareca), Parodi, Alfaro Moreno.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Gilmar, Cafu, Ronaldo, Dinho, Palhinha (Doriva), Juninho (Valber), Valdeir, Muller, Andre, Tonino Cerezo.
● Independiente, chasing a 2-0 first leg deficit, were never in the hunt after Valdeir gave Sao Paulo a 21-minute lead, although they were unlucky not to score on several occasions in the first half. In the second half Independiente never gave up trying, but they lacked the organisation to be dangerous.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
BOCA JUNIORS (Arg) 1 (Graciani)
ESTUDIANTES (Arg) 3 (Calderon 2, A. Paz)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Francisco Lamolina (Arg).
Estudiantes won 5-2 on agg.
Boca Juniors: Navarro Montoya, Saldana, Simon (Acosta), Medero, MacAllister, Sonora, Mancuso, Tapia (Da Silva), Marcico, Martinez, Graciani.
Estudiantes: Yorno, Gaitan, Erbin, Iribarren, Pratola, Calderon, Pighin, Paris, A. Paz, Gonzalez (Palermo), Uliambre (Fontana).
● A more pracitcal Estudiantes controlled play with counter-attacks against a disorganized Boca team whose many stars played below form again . . . with a man less for the last 20 minutes, Da Silva being sent off.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Bra) 3 (Renato Gaucho, Casagrande, Junior Bahiano pen.)
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Zanabria)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000.
Flamengo won 3-2 on agg.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Junior Bahiano, Rogerio, Pia, Fabinho, Marquinhos, Nelio, Marcelinho, Renato Gaucho (Magno), Casagrande.
Olimpia: Battaglia, Caceres, Ramirez, Ayala, Suarez, Guendulain, Jara, Sotelo, Caballero (Campos), Cardozo, Chaves (Zanabria).
● Flamengo won comfortably, even slowing down after the interval, to qualify easily as Olimpia's goal only came in the last minute.

In Avellaneda, Argentina.
RACING CLUB (Arg) 1 (Castro)
NACIONAL (Uru) 3 (Morales, Vidal Gonzalez, Suarez)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** M. Rezende (Bra).
Nacional won 4-2 on agg.
Racing: Gonzalez, Zaccanti, Sanguinetti, Vallejo, Distefano, Marini (Quiroz), Allegue, De Vicente (Dalla Libera), C. Garcia, Castro, Lopez.
Nacional: Sere, Pintos Saldana (Morales), Revelez, Canals, Mendez, Gutierrez, Sarabia, Olivera, Suarez (Perreyra), Mincuta, Vidal Gonzalez.
● Morales came on for Nacional in the second half to bolster their attack which scored three goals in 15 minutes to turn the result around. Nacional, in spite of playing away, had to attack as they were held to a draw at home and they played with three men up against Racing's two.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Charles, Gilson)
PENAROL (Uru) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Jose J. Torres (Col).
Gremio won 2-1 on agg.
Gremio: Danrlei, Alfinete, Paulao (Grotto), Agnaldo, Branco, Pingo, Carlos Alberto Dias (Gilson), Jamir, Carlos Miguel, Fabinho, Charles.
Penarol: Rabaja, Da Silva (Tais), Gutierrez, De los Santos, Lima, Dorta, Rodriguez, Bengoechea, Baltierra (Turra), Otero, Dario Silva.
● In a rough game Gremio scored two second half goals to qualify for the next round, but both teams finished with seven men as eight were sent off for various offences. After the final whistle Penarol players battled with police and later the Uruguayan club asked CONMEBOL to have the game replayed. This was not accepted but Gremio's field was closed for six months for international games as there had also been a field invasion.

2nd round — 1st leg

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 1 (Reinaldo)
NACIONAL (Uru) 2 (Vidal Gonzalez, Severo)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 29,300.
Cruzeiro: Sergio, Zelao, Celso Lucio, Robson, Nonato, Ademir, Boladeiro, Macale, Careca, Ronaldo, Edenilson.
Nacional: Sere, Canals, Mendez, Sarabia, Revelez, Pintos Saldana, Suarez, Gutierrez, Minguta, Severo, Vidal Gonzalez.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil.
SAO PAULO (Bra) 2 (Cafu, Dinho)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Charles, Caio)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Bra).
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Dinho, Tonino Cerezo, Juninho, Palhinha, Muller, Valdeir.
Gremio: Danrlei, Alfinete, Paulao, Agnaldo, Branco, Grotto, Marco Aurelio, Junior, Caio, Charles, Adil.

In Medellin, Colombia.
NATIONAL (Col) 1 (Garcia)
ESTUDIANTES (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Nacional: Castaneda, Herrera, Marulanda, Escobar, Osorio, Gaviria, Gomez, Serna, Garcia, Aristizabal, Trellez.
Estudiantes: Yorno, Boggio, Erbin, Fontana, Cabrera, Paris, Pighin, Gaitan (Gonzalez), Calderon, Larrea (Senci), A. Paz.
● Nacional were well on top in the first half, but slowed down in the second half. Estudiantes, often defending with 10 men, then came close to snatching an undeserved equalizer in the final minutes.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21

In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 2 (Rivarola, Toresani)
FLAMENGO (Bra) 1 (Rogerio)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Julio Matto (Uru).
River Plate: Sodero, H. Diaz, Rivarola, Corti, Lavallen, Toresani, Astrada, Rojas, Berti, Ortega, Silvani (Villalba).
Flamengo: Gilmar, Gelson, Junior Bahiano, Rogerio (Pia), Marcos Adriano, Charles, Eder Lopes, Marquinhos, Marcelino, Renato Portaluppi, Casagrande.
● River Plate could have won more easily, but missed chances in a poor game with Flamengo below form.

2nd round — 2nd leg

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
FLAMENGO (Bra) 1 (Rogerio)
RIVER PLATE (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Ernesto Fillipi (Uru).
Agg: 2-2, Flamengo won 6-5 on pens.
Flamengo: Gilmar, Charles, Gelson, Rogerio, Marcos Adriano, Fabinho, Marquinhos, Edu Lima, Marcelinho, Julio Cesar (Eder Lopes), Casagrande (Magno).
River Plate: Sodero, H. Diaz, Corti, Rivarola, Lavallen (Altamirano), Astrada, Toresani, Rojas (Silvani), Ortega, Berti, Villalba.
● Flamengo were well on top, but could only score once to tie the aggregate score so it went to penalties with Gilmar stopping one shot in sudden death after earlier scoring from the spot. Rogerio, Marcelino, Gilmar, Marquinhos, Fabinho and Gelson netted for Flamengo while Rivarola; Berti, Villalba, Altamirano and Sodero converted River Plate's penalties.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Bra) 0
SAO PAULO (Bra) 1 (Tonino Cerezo)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Claudio Cerdeira (Bra).
Sao Paulo won 3-2 on agg.
Gremio: Danrlei, Alfinete, Paulao, Agnaldo, Branco, Jamir, Pingo, Grotto (Adil), Carlos Miguel, Caio (Gilson), Charles.
Sao Paulo: Zetti, Cafu, Valber, Ronaldo, Andre, Doriva, Dinho, Tonino Cerezo, Palhinha, Valdeir (Gilmar), Muller.
● Libertadores Cup holders Sao Paulo had to be at their best to get past Gremio, but showed their class in an exciting clash.

In La Plata, Argentina.
ESTUDIANTES (Arg) 0
NACIONAL (Col) 1 (Osorio)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Juan Escobar (Par).
Nacional won 2-0 on agg.
Estudiantes: Yorno, Capria, Iribarren (Amato), Fontano, Erbin, Pighin, Paris, Gonzalez, Palermo (Larrea), Calderon, A. Paz.
Nacional: Castaneda, Herrera, Escobar, Marulanda, Osorio, Gomez, Gaviria, Serna, Garcia, Trellez, Aristizabal.
● Estudiantes, trailing by a goal from the first leg, pressed for goals from the start, but gradually got more and more nervous and their play deteriorated. Five players were sent off in the last 22 minutes — Fontana, Paris and Gonzalez of Estudiantes; Gaviria and Osorio of Nacional.

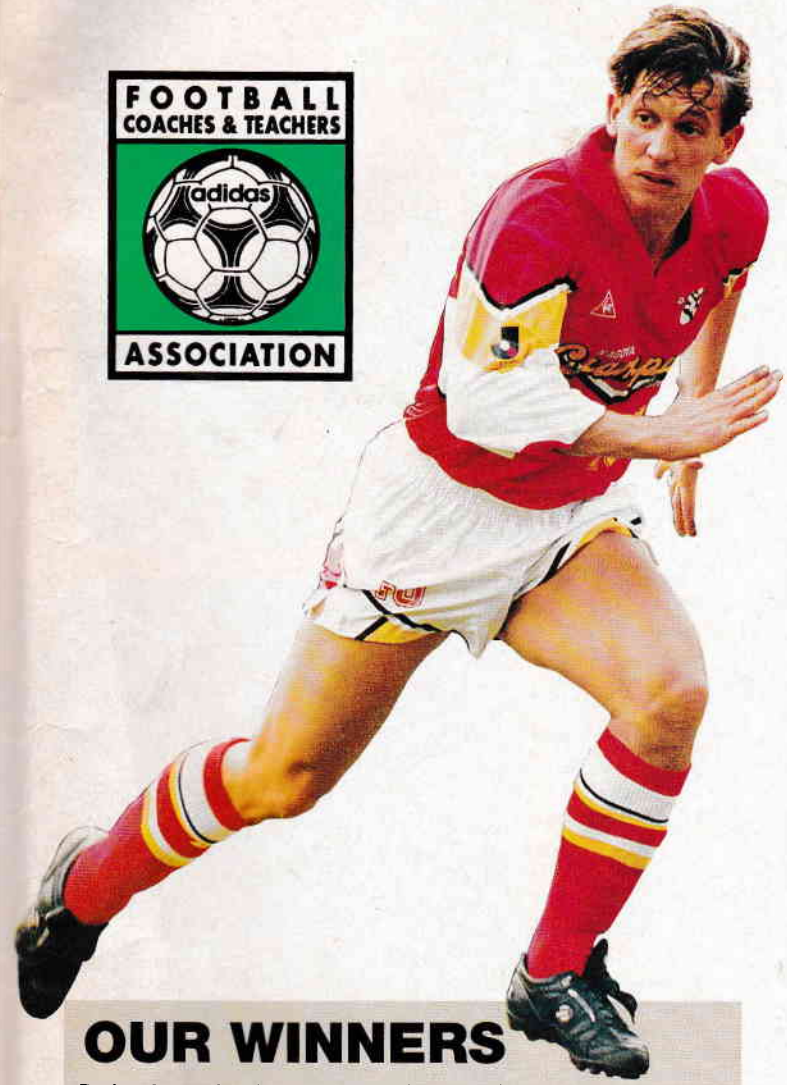
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

In Montevideo, Uruguay.
NACIONAL (Uru) 2 (Olivera, Morales)
CRUZEIRO (Bra) 3 (Macale, Ronaldo, Nonato)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg).
Agg: 4-4, Nacional won 4-2 on pens.
Nacional: Sere, Canals, Revelez, Saravia (Larre), Mendez, Gutierrez, Pintos Saldana, Olivera, Suarez, Mincuta (Morales), Gonzalez.
Cruzeiro: Sergio, Paulo Roberto, Tonino Cerezo, Nonato, Ademir, Boladeiro, Macale, Ronaldo, Careca (Edenilson), Roberto Gaucho, Celio Lucio.
● Nonato scored Cruzeiro's winner in the final minute to tie the aggregate score, but then his team lost the penalty shootout with Canals, Larre, Morales and Vidal Gonzalez scoring for Nacional and Roberto Gaucho and Macale for Cruzeiro.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONAL
Oct 7: Newell's Old Boys (Arg) 1 Emelec (Ecu) 0.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL
Nov 4: Colo Colo (Chi) 3 Australia Select X 2.

Lineker joins AFCT!



● GOOD news for the AFCT — Gary Lineker has joined the Committee as an international ambassador for the Association.

"I want to put something back into the game, particularly in helping to develop skill in youngsters," said Lineker, who is currently recovering from surgery on a toe.

A new start for England

THE inquests that resulted from the disastrous England failure to reach the World Cup finals was as predictable as the aftermath of a General Election.

For weeks following the match against San Marino the situation has been analysed, dissected and scapegoats found.

However, it should be apparent to all that there is no one clear villain of the piece in this case.

Several contributing factors were put forward by the Press and the pundits — the team manager, his selection and thereby his tactics, the FA Coaching Scheme, too many games, the direct style, etc, etc were all to blame.

Another similarity with a General Election is that it will be a number of years before the vanquished can look forward to another tilt at the title.

What is actually being given to England here is the opportunity to instal a new manager with a new management system. A chance to revamp entirely the FA Coaching Scheme, particularly the FA "Blueprint for Success" devised by Charles Hughes, which has been put on ice by the powers that be at Lancaster Gate.

It has been very interesting to view the *On the Line* and *Saint and Greavsie* programmes that have allowed strong opinions to be aired and real flak to be put out — but not allowing time in both cases for constructive, positive and well thought-out proposals to be discussed. Everyone by now knows what is wrong — but nobody is willing to let reason be heard.

Strangely enough — never underestimate the power of coincidence — at the very time that *On the Line* was being broadcast a number of coaches were returning from a residential weekend held in the Sheffield area, when 62 members and prospective members had been active on the first Association of Coaches and Teachers seminar organised with the support of adidas and *WORLD SOCCER*.

The focus of the weekend had been the "development of skill and technique for youth players" identified by the AFCT as an area of priority.

Alfred Galustian — UK Director of Coerver Coaching — gave a demonstration of the development of foot skills and moves that contribute to the balance essential to become comfortable on the ball.

Graham Morgan and Jack Detchon both translated some Coerver techniques work via the introduction of opposition and Jimmy Sirrel added some thoughts on re-starts before Colin Morris of Scunthorpe United finished the weekend with a series of practices designed to help shooting (yes, Colin, we did see your 7-0 result against Northampton the following week!)

A few weeks later, the Association held another seminar at Loughton in Essex.

Among the principal coaches directing the sessions were Don Howe (left), who ruled himself out as a serious contender for the job as England's caretaker manager, and John Cartwright, the former England youth coach and outspoken critic of the FA systems developed by Charles Hughes.

But it is well to remind ourselves that no matter what politics, power games, financial considerations and ego tripping decision-making occurs at the higher echelons of football there is still the fresh green shoots of the next generation growing up at grass roots level.

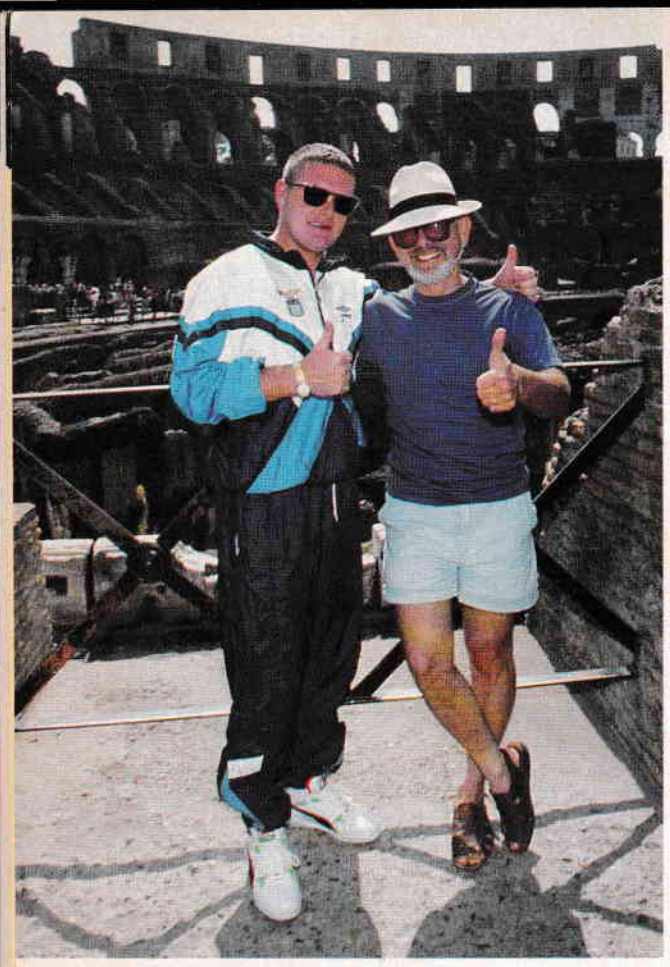
OUR WINNERS

During the weekend the winners of the adidas/*WORLD SOCCER* competition were announced. The entrants had to select from a list and prioritise the key influences in developing skill in young players.
The results were as follows:
1: Working individually with a ball.
2: Playing small sided games.
3: Attending a centre of excellence.
4: Playing regularly for a school or youth team.
5: Having good role models to copy.

● The winner was membership number 266 — Mark Shipp from Goole who has selected a day at the training ground of Arsenal Football Club.
The Runners Up were:
● Membership number 242 — Paul Colley from Bracknell.
● Membership number 208 — Trevor Todd from Wallsend.
● Membership number 374 — Cosi Basile from Beverley.
● Membership number 377 — Alister McKie from Newton Stewart near Stranraer.
● Membership number 216 — Michael Ross from Aberdeen.
All the prizes are currently being arranged for the winners.

ASSOCIATION OF COACHES & TEACHERS

For full details about the AFCT send a stamped addressed envelope to: Rob Littleford, Penmore House, Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 OSJ.



BRIAN GLANVILLE'S
LAST WORD

In praise of agents

Some of them, anyway

AGENTS, soccer agents, are being demonised. In the strangest and most blinkered way. The Football Association are after them. The PFA approached them with a silver crucifix and a wreath of garlic.

They are putting up prices, exploiting players, generally bringing a largely disreputable game into still greater disrepute.

Not so fast, I say. There are agents and agents. Honest men and tricksters. Serious, principled negotiators and those merely out to make a quick buck. But then you could say the same about lawyers. Even of journalists.

FIFA and the FA are shutting the stable door after the horse has gone. I am amazed that FIFA statutes still say that clubs should have no dealings with agents, when a handful of such as Caliendo have for years virtually controlled the Italian transfer market.

There has been much huffing and puffing from Lancaster Gate over the fearful scandal of Mark Bosnich, the Australian goalkeeper who joined Aston Villa from Sydney Croatia via Graham Smith, an agent.

Technically that may be flouting the game's rules, but in countries such as Brazil players have for years been "owned" by an individual entrepreneur. Dunga, the international midfielder sold to Italy, was an example.

Even Steve Coppell, who sits on the committee recently appointed to probe the ills of the game, admits that agents in football have a function, when negotiating for young players. So indeed they do.

Just think about it. Writers have agents. Actors have agents. Many journalists have agents. So do singers. Mature men and women, who feel, quite rightly, that they would rather delegate the wheeling, dealing and haggling to someone else.

Not so your average footballer; a veritable Peter Pan. Besieged by scouts and coaches, offers from merest boyhood if he looks at all talented. Seduced away from his schoolwork, apprenticed to a pro club at 16 or so, disciplined and dragooned up to the hilt. At once pampered and restricted.

What chance have they got dealing with middle-aged managers and with directors whose business is . . . business?

Saying which, I don't dispute for a moment that there are greedy agents who rip players off, insist on getting 25 per cent of their signing-on fee in advance.

I deplore the policies of agents such as Mel (Louisiana) Stein, who of course ISN'T an agent but a lawyer who merely (merely?) charges for his time. Those policies, to be specific, involve players charging for Press and TV interviews. A policy which has brought both Stein and Paul Gascoigne to grief when Stein initially paraded him in Rome (above), sold an exclusive interview to one TV station, so that its rival maliciously attacked Gazza on the box.

A masterly lead article by the editor of *Corriere Dello Sport* of Rome, Italo Cucci, rebuked Stein for his mistaken tactics, and warned of the consequences if such a policy were persisted with when he started playing. Since then, stubborn silences.

Talking of Lazio, and agents, the case of Gino Santini seems quite relevant here, the more so as both he and Frank McLintock (left), a colleague of Graham Smith, were cited, unflatteringly, in an article about agents in a leading daily newspaper.Santin was named in a BBC TV programme as a restaurateur who had received no less than £200,000 for his part in Gascoigne's move to Lazio, money which had then been paid into a Swiss bank account.

Alan Sugar, owner of Tottenham,, demanded to know what Santin had done to earn so much money, suggesting that his role had been no more than that of a glorified interpreter. Initially, Sugar told us, Terry Venables, then chief executive of Spurs, had assured him to his surprise that Santin would act for nothing.

Nothing will come from nothing, King Lear insists. But did Santin contribute so little? I was intrigued by a subsequent Channel 4 TV programme when Lionello Celon, right-hand man to the now beleaguered Lazio president, Sergio Cragnotti, said, quite simply, that without Santin, it was quite possible the Gascoigne deal would not have gone through.

I therefore asked Celon to expand on the point; and he did. He faxed me a letter in which he stated that in a variety of delicate issues in the transfer, Santin had indeed played a crucial role.

Sugar, still won't have it, and I suppose we must make up our own minds on the matter. I've never

Leave the game to the public

ALF RAMSEY was the grand guru of obscurantism in football. The manager who insisted that soccer could be understood only by the initiated. By coaches, managers and players.

Never by such lesser breeds as fans and journalists.

Hugh McIlvanney pointed out around that time, with characteristic percipience, that this was a dangerous attitude. To try to take the game away from the public could rebound.

And indeed, the managerial success of such as Italy's Arrigo Sacchi, who wasn't even a good amateur, seems highly relevant.

As Sacchi has memorably said: "You don't need to have been a horse to be a jockey."

It amused me to see how often managers and coaches get things wrong, making, in their immense wisdom and intricate thinking, the kind of crack brained simple mistakes which their dimmest fan would avoid.

This occurred to me again after Manchester United had gone out in such torrid circumstances in Turkey, when they couldn't beat Galatasaray. And why did they even expect to, given the strange, lopsided team that manager Alex Ferguson put out?

Above all, no Mark Hughes. Ferguson, over the years, has seemed to drop him at the drop of a hat. He'd been controversially left out earlier in the season at Chelsea, on the dubious grounds that he would not be eligible, being suspended, for the following Wednesday's game against Honved. Hughes was severely missed against Chelsea, who managed a 1-0 win.

In Istanbul, without Hughes, Eric Cantona (above) struggled to find time and space, lost his rag after the game, and was largely made to carry the can. Not guilty.

But then, Graham Taylor as England's manager has forever been making the kind of error which would be laughable were it not so costly.

In Holland, last October with the weird decision to use Carlton Palmer wide on the right. Most notoriously of all in Norway the previous June, when the England players were suddenly struck with a half baked sweeper system which they could not comprehend.

Gary Pallister, most classical of stopper centre-halves, at left-back!

Maybe football is too important to be left to managers. And I'll refrain from writing about George Graham, Anders Limpar and the marginalising of Paul Davis.

After all what do journalists know?

spoken to Santin, but would hazard a guess that he may have offered initially to interpret for nothing, then found himself involved in long negotiations. Whereupon he did indeed ask for as much as five per cent of the fee.

Sugar insists he did not get that fee raised to £5.5 million and points to a letter sent by Lazio's London solicitors to Tottenham in June 1991, before Santin was involved, which specifies the price.

There has been much controversy about this letter. Venables has questioned its authenticity. Sugar, who says he was shocked when he saw and heard of it on TV, later discovered it in the Tottenham files!

A complex business, but all I would say is that suggestions Santin did little or nothing seem debatable, to say the least.

Then there's the matter of the £58,000 paid in cash by Spurs to McLintock, which McLintock assures me, was repaid, because Venables had in fact stipulated the money paid should be no more than £50,000 inclusive of VAT. Which, says McLintock has been paid.

There were hints that the money might have been used as a "bung" to secure Teddy Sheringham's move from Nottingham Forest to Spurs, though no evidence of this has been put forward.

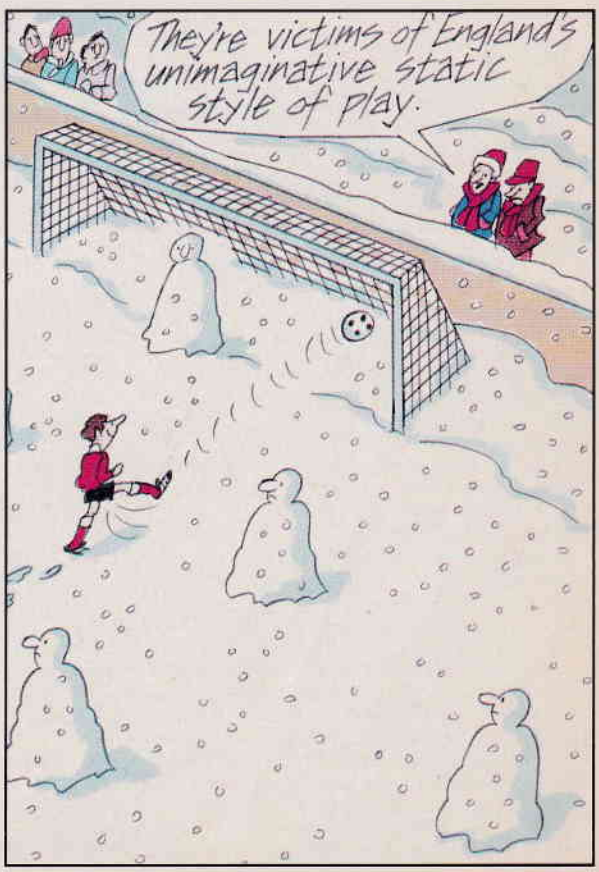
McLintock, who angrily denies any such thing, admits that his agency might not have been able to send Spurs their bill had Sheringham's transfer not come up, but has given me details of exhaustive travels to find Russian and American-based players for Spurs and others.

I could, but won't, go on at length of "scams" operated by agents, but please note that these have included, at times, not only club managers but even club chairmen.

The case of the Scandinavian agent for such as Gunnar Halle (above left) of Norway and Oldham, who have allegedly paid far less than the publicised sum to the selling club, placing the rest off shore, is significant.

It's been reported that it was by no means a case of the agent himself pocketing all the surplus money. So where did it go?

Agents, for better or worse, are in football to stay. Trying to exclude them is rather like Prohibition. It doesn't work and may well create more problems than it solves. Accept them: and regulate them.



A to Z OF THE WORLD'S GREAT GROUNDS

By SIMON INGLIS, author of The Football Grounds of Great Britain and The Football Grounds of Europe

PSV EINDHOVEN

Name: Philips Stadion
Capacity: 27,000
Opened: 1913
Location: Five minute walk from railway station, not far from the Philips factory

● Currently Holland's most advanced and well-attended stadium (with average gates of around 24,000), the Philps Stadion is home to the most famous works team in Europe. Philips supply the floodlights, CCTV, the giant Nitstar video screen, heaters for the fans (true!) and more than half the regular supporters (half the 35,000 Philips workers in Eindhoven have season tickets). The luxurious five-storey South Stand, opened in 1988, holds 10,000, plus 1,050 in two levels of business lounges and boxes. In September 1992 a new, more basic tier behind the West Stand was added, adding a further 4,500 seats, with shops behind. By 1996 the remaining two stands will be similarly expanded, to make a total capacity of 30,000 all seated. The emphasis at Eindhoven is on making the stadium pay for itself, so apart from proposed office developments on three sides, there are a number of "business rooms" overlooking the pitch, lounges and restaurants. One is called the Stuttgart Room. Another, equally bafflingly, is named "Les Girondins" (I wonder, have Bordeaux reciprocated with a restaurant at the Parc de Lescure called Het PSV?). Why not a Romario Restroom or a Robson cafe? No prizes for architecture, but superb for viewing, especially important night matches.

World Soccer rating: 8 (out of 10)

ECUADOR

When Ecuador was chosen as venue for the 1993 Copa America, the country's first major tournament since the 1947 South American Championship, worries were raised about the state and size of the main stadia. But the government stumped up over $2 million for improvements, and although the pitches were sometimes poor, the stadia proved quite adequate.

Venue for the Final was the Estadio Monumental (Isidro Romero Carbo, to give it its full name), home of the Guayaquil club Barcelona SC. But the Nou Camp it ain't. Situated amid undulating scrubland on the banks of the Guayas River (sounds nice, but isn't), the stadium was expanded from 50,000 to hold 90,000, and is a standard Latin American concrete bowl with tiers of private boxes on either side.

Also in Guayaquil, Ecudaor's largest city and main port, is the Estadio George Capwel, much improved home of Emelec (capacity 45,000) which also has two towering stacks of boxes on either side, plus slab-like open terraces behind each goal. Before this, Emelec (and Barcelona) often played at the city's original main venue, the Estadio Modelo (48,700), a more basic bowl now used by Deportivo Filanbanco and Calvi.

The Copa America's other main venue was Quito's Estadio Atahualpa (45,000), home to the capital's four main clubs, El Nacional, Deportivo Quito, Universidad Catolica and LDU. Situated in a residential suburb east of the historic centre, the Atahualpa has a cute little concrete vaulted roof over the VIP area, dating back to its inauguration in 1957, the year Ecuador's first national championships were held.

EVERTON

Name: Goodison Park
Capacity: 36,556 (2,090 standing) but onced squeezed in 78,299 for Liverpool derby in 1948
Opened: 24 August 1892
Location: A few hundred yards from the Anfield home of rivals Liverpool. Everton is the name of the district, also the name of a famous mint — hence Goodison Park once being nicknamed Toffeeopolis

● A century old last year, Goodison will be forever remembered as the scene of that astonishing 1966 World Cup quarter-final, Portugal v North Korea. One of the great historic grounds of Britain, surrounded as it is by terraced housing and with a church occupying one corner. Apart from the rather ugly three tier Main Stand, built in 1971, the remaining three sides date back to 1907, 1926 and 1938, and were the work of the great Archibald Leitch, the Scottish engineer who designed so many of Britain's grounds between 1900-1939. New all-blue roofs and seats on two of the stands have spruced the place up considerably — although the sightlines are not ideal and there are still a lot of columns — and in February work will commence to replace the oldest surviving stand at the Park End with a £2.6 million 6,500-seater replacement. Even so, Goodison will still not be good enough for the Football Association, which in a crushing blow to blue pride in the city has preferred neighbouring Anfield as a venue for the 1996 European Championship.

World Soccer rating: 6 (out of 10)

EGYPT

Named after Egypt's most famous leader, the vast concrete hulk of the Nasser Stadium is the focus for Al Ahly, possibly the largest and best supported club in the Arab world. They frequently draw a full house of 100,000, and on one occasion, if reports are true,150,000 for a local derby v deadly Cairo rivals Zamalek. Not a fixture for the faint-hearted.

NEXT MONTH IN

WORLD SOCCER

Germany's new hope: ANDY MOLLER

World Cup countdown:

The Identikit boss!

Champions Cup Special

Report from Africa

The fall and rise of 1860 MUNICH

America's key man: exclusive interview with BORA MILUTINOVIC

FEBRUARY ISSUE ON SALE 14th JANUARY

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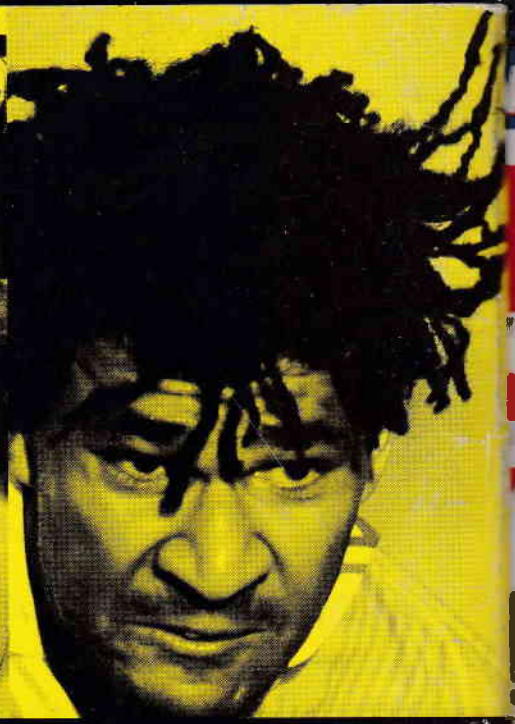
Sacchi, the big chief!

Pagliuca applauds.

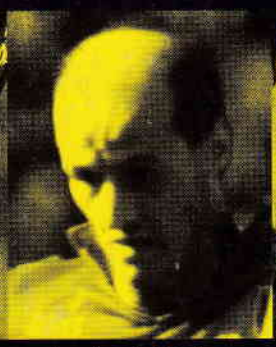
Baiano screams.

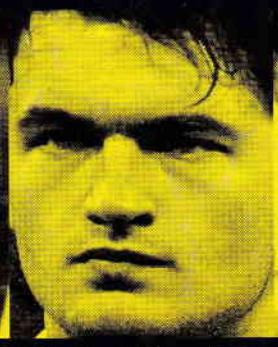
Melli needs a wash.


Gullit: the lion.

Albertini's boot.

Rossi: parries or blocks.


Lombardo's locks.


Close-up of Chapuisat.

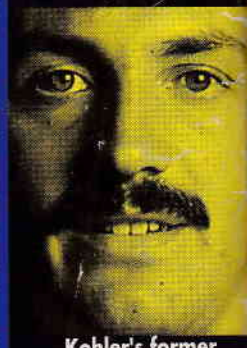
Marchegiani advises.

Ferron indignant!

SOCCER IS LIFE.

61000-

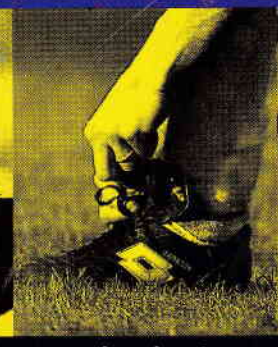
Conte: proud profile.


Kohler's former moustache.

Ielpo's frown.

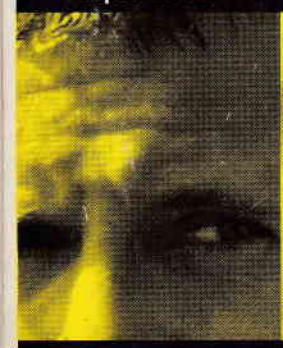
Who's behind the mask?

Savicevic's stare.


Whose boot?

Fuser out of breath.

Whose back?


Is it Gascoigne?

Albertini in action

Mannini's nose

300 CHAMPIONS PLAY WITH LOTTO.

lotto
Italian Sports Design